

60,000 Iraqi men mass on border as first land battle ends

Saudi troops retake Khafji

CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA
AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

LINE forces in Saudi Arabia were put on a high alert last night as 60,000 Iraqi troops massed on the Kuwaiti border. But allied commanders did not expect an imminent attack.

The alert came after the border town of Khafji was returned to Saudi control after fierce fighting lasting nearly two days. Exchanges continued to the north of the town.

The five Iraqi divisions gathered on the border appeared to be a tactical reserve that had been moved forward about 20 miles to support "limited penetration" raids into Saudi Arabia. Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, joint British forces commander, said in Riyadh: "I don't see a build-up of forces at the moment which makes an attack on Saudi Arabia imminent," he said. "There has been no large movement forward of Iraqi armour."

Brigadier General Pat Stevens of the American central command refused to be drawn during his briefing in Riyadh on the massing of Iraqi troops. But he hinted that Saddam Hussein might be looking to follow up the temporary occupation of Khafji. "You can speculate that he is looking for some sort of victory, or some sort of act which might give him confidence."

General Stevens said that Khafji had been occupied by an armed Iraqi reconnaissance force of "company-plus, battalion-minus" size. The allies had first assaulted the town for two weeks, but met ferocious resistance.

The Associated Press reported that Saudi armoured columns and accompanying American marine units moving up the main north-south road were pummeled with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms fire. At least one allied light armoured vehicle was set on fire and several explosions were heard. Saudi and Qatari forces regrouped and attacked again an hour later from the south and west. The fighting continued through the night, with intermittent aerial bombings,

until the allies were in control of most of the city by mid-morning.

The Saudis then fought pitched battles in the city centre with Iraqi troops apparently reinforced with tanks and Soviet-made armoured personnel carriers with 30mm cannon and machineguns. Qatari forces repeatedly dashed in for sharp exchanges of cannon fire and heavy machineguns, then retreated beyond the city line to regroup. All the while, American marines poised on the edge of the city fired supporting volleys and Cobra helicopters provided air support.

Allied commanders said that 160 Iraqis had been taken prisoner and 22 Iraqi tanks had been destroyed. The number of American marines killed was revised from 12 to 11. General Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of Operation Desert Storm, said that prisoners taken during the clashes had claimed that many of the Iraqi troops had been forced to attack at gunpoint. Some five million leaflets had been dropped on the Iraqi front lines outlining in Arabic and English procedures for surrendering.

While the Saudi authorities issued a statement hailing their "victorious forces" and Baghdad radio trumpeted the Iraqi triumph of capturing and briefly holding Khafji, allied leaders played down the significance of the encounter. General Schwarzkopf said it was "about as significant as a mosquito on an elephant," pointing out that the town had long been deserted. Reacting to news reports of a "major invasion," General Stevens said: "It was certainly nothing of the sort."

General Schwarzkopf said the raid had been launched, not by rag-tag frontline troops, nor by the Republican Guard, but by intermediate level forces from just behind the front line who were reasonably well-trained. He regretted the American deaths, but said it would "not be unhealthy" if they sobered the American people and prepared them for more.

He speculated that the assault had been ordered for propaganda purposes, but because the allied artillery had pounded the Iraqi forces for three nights running, "they took very, very heavy losses and didn't accomplish anything other than to get a headline."

Baghdad's Mother of Battles radio station said that American men and women had been taken prisoner during the battle for Khafji, and claimed that the land war would open the way to liberating "the land of Mohammed."

Saudi Arabia - before also liberating Palestine, the Golan Heights and Lebanon from



An emotional Major Craig Huddleston tells how he made an unsuccessful attempt to rescue two US marines inside Khafji

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American female GI reported missing

FROM SUSAN ELLIOTT IN WASHINGTON

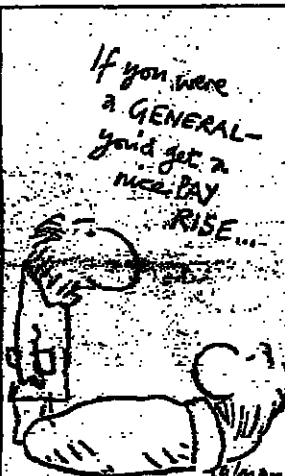
THE American military reported its first woman soldier missing in Operation Desert Storm yesterday after she and a male colleague disappeared on a transport mission.

The two soldiers went missing from their unit on a road that runs along an oil pipeline about 25-75 miles south of the Saudi-Kuwait border. The army said that the pair, who were still being sought last night, were not directly involved in the fighting at Khafji or along the border.

Brigadier General Pat Stevens emphasized that the details he had were only an initial report from the command centre in Riyadh. America has about 28,000 women serving in support units with troops in the Gulf although federal and military rules forbid them from holding combat positions.

The American military is sensitive about the roles played by women in the war against Iraq because they are closer to the front than in any other war in American history. Military leaders have worried that female deaths or casualties could undermine morale among male troops and weaken support back home for the war.

The official Iraqi news agency reported yesterday that it had captured an undisclosed number of female American soldiers during fighting at the Saudi border town, a claim on which America did not comment. Of the 500,000 American troops in the Gulf, about 6 per cent are women, compared with about 11 per cent in America's overall international active-duty force.



12% rise for armed forces

By PHILIP BASSETT INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S armed forces, including those in the Gulf, will receive pay increases averaging 12 per cent after the government yesterday accepted the recommendations of an independent pay review body.

The cabinet decided, however, to cut the pay awards for about 1.1 million other public service workers, including nurses, doctors, dentists, senior civil servants, judges and teachers, by staging their recommended awards over eight months.

The armed forces will get rises ranging from 11.2 to 18 per cent, plus improvements in additional pay and allowances at a net cost of £500 million, or 12.2 per cent on the forces' pay bill.

The forces' review body argued strongly against staging the award, and John Major, the prime minister, said in a Commons written reply: "When many of our armed forces are on active service, we have concluded it would not be appropriate to ask them to wait for their full pay award."

The pay of the most junior continued on page 18, col 1

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Germans lift interest rate

An early cut in British interest rates has been almost certainly ruled out by a surprise half-point increase in the key lending rates of the Bundesbank. The German central bank. Page 19

Business comment, page 21

Mandela delay



The trial of Winnie Mandela on kidnapping and assault charges could be postponed indefinitely after four of her seven co-defendants jumped bail and disappeared. Page 8

Damages blow

Most of the alleged victims of the anti-arthritis drug Open are likely to lose their claims for damages after a High Court ruling that their civil action was too late. Page 6

Receivers in

Lewis's, Britain's leading regional department store group, has gone into receivership, putting 3,500 jobs at risk. The receivers hope to sell it as a going concern. The group has no link with The John Lewis Partnership. Page 19

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Long night's journey into blitzed Baghdad

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

HASSAN, the officer in charge of the Iraqi border post at Trebil, looked up in amazement and pointed back to the Jordanian frontier. "Foreigners are meant to be going that way," he said, indicating a long line of buses carrying expatriate Asian and African workers on the start of their long journey home from Iraq and Kuwait.

Certainly when our car skidded out of control and rolled over in the desert a few miles into Iraq in the early hours of yesterday morning his argument seemed very convincing.

Nearly two weeks after journalists were told to leave Baghdad, those returning yesterday found the Iraqi landscape had changed dramatically. The three-lane highway linking Baghdad to the Jordanian border is now

almost entirely closed off because of repeated allied raids on civilian and military transport.

Vehicles now respect the blackout rule when driving at night, one of the contributing factors to our accident, but the horizon is lit up at regular intervals by the smouldering wreckage of lorries burning in the night.

A body covered under a blanket lay abandoned on the road and in the space of a few miles goods vehicles, oil tankers and military transport littered the highway like the giant carcasses of animals hunted down in the night.

Even when I succeeded in hitching a ride with four Iraqi soldiers, in search of help for my stranded colleagues, Bernard Estrade of Agence France Presse and Patrick de Saint Exupery of Figaro, my problems were far from over. Twice the Iraqi driver

had to screech to a halt to avoid destroying his tyres on a road strewn with rocks, shrapnel and pieces of dismembered lorries, and on one occasion the driver had to swerve just missing a gaping bomb crater which had claimed a bus earlier that night.

Getting help in time of war for a broken down vehicle is rarely an easy task, but it proved particularly fruitless at three in the morning when we woke up the mayor and police chief of Rutba, a desolate staging post on the road to Baghdad. They confessed there was no way of contacting the capital anymore and ordered my escort to take me to Baghdad where the ministry of information could deal with the matter.

However, actually getting to Baghdad these days is no simple matter with roads and bridges increasingly

becoming unsafe because of allied air strikes.

Although the scale of air attacks does not appear to have diminished over the past two weeks, the Iraqi attitude has. Women and children would once have scurried to the nearest bomb shelter, now Iraqis walk out into the street to try to catch a glimpse of the attacking aircraft.

Civilian and military destruction is particularly widespread in the city's suburbs, where most key installations, many houses have been destroyed.

Baghdad is beginning to adjust to the hardship of long petrol queues and non-existent utilities and even find room for the occasional display of optimism, like the reception clerk at the al-Rasheed Hotel who announced that guests could now enjoy two hours of running water a day.

Moscow warning to Britain on fear of sanctions

By MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has sent a warning to Britain that Western sanctions against Moscow over the Baltic crackdown would only play into the hands of hardliners.

His message is part of a last-ditch campaign by Moscow to convince the West that Mr Gorbachev's political future now hangs in the balance, and that a tough Western reaction could contribute to his downfall. Soviet officials in Europe and America have given warnings that hardliners are waiting for an excuse to push Soviet policy back to the more confrontational framework of the cold war.

Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet ambassador, who has just returned from Moscow, called on Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday as Soviet officials pleaded for Western understanding of the pressures now limiting President Gorbachev's room for manoeuvre.

The meeting, at his request, comes only days before Monday's crucial meeting in Brussels of European Community foreign ministers, who will decide whether EC aid to the Soviet Union is to be frozen and what other response the West should make to the bloodshed in Lithuania and Latvia. Mr Zamyatin told Mr Hurd that the Kremlin was determined to seek a peaceful solution in the Baltic states.

EC ministers are likely to hold back at least part of the planned aid, consisting of £175 million of emergency food and drugs, £350 million of credits to buy agricultural commodities and £280 million of technical assistance.

President Gorbachev is understood to have telephoned Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, a few days ago, urging him to counsel moderation at the Brussels meeting. Germany has expressed considerable anguish at the political dilemma posed by the Baltic crackdown, and has told its allies of its reluctance to take tough measures against Moscow before the Russians have ratified the German unification treaty.

Mr Hurd and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, have agreed that all EC countries should adopt a common approach to Moscow.

Plus to Gorbachev, page 9
Journalist banished, page 9

SATURDAY

And to coin a phrase...

"Novels and money have a great deal in common. Both are paper fictions, and both aim to be thought of as a form of reality." Novelist Malcolm Bradbury on money myths, dear departed coins and the hard (to love) ecu

SATURDAY REVIEW

True blue and black

Kate Muir meets John Taylor, the Cheltenham Conservative whose candidacy brought a sensitive issue brimming to the surface

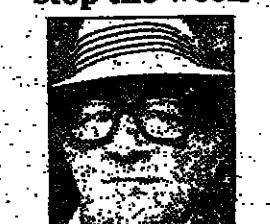
SATURDAY REVIEW

Rob Andrew on rugby

The England fly-half comments on the five nations' championship, which continues tomorrow. Plus the full football programme and the fifth Test

TIMES SPORT

Somewhere to stop the week



"The second home is the one you volunteer for, so all the pressures are off." Broadcaster Robert Robinson on life out of town

WEEKEND LIVING

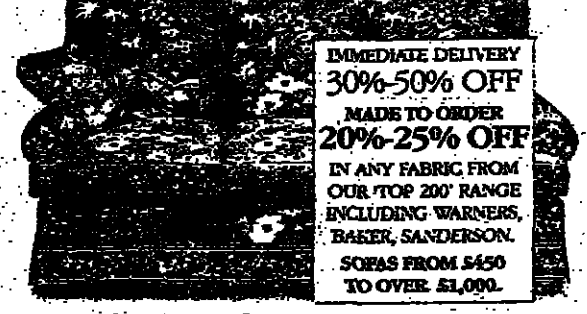
Credit squeeze, after a fashion

The squeeze is on the banks, so the squeeze is on the customers: NatWest and Midland are following Lloyds and Barclays with annual fees on their credit cards

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Thirty hours at Khafji mark turning point in the conflict

THIS is "just one battle, not the war" — one of General Norman Schwarzkopf's choice comments likely to be remembered over the next few days if the Iraqis continue to come out into the open from their bunkers to take on the allies on Saudi territory.

The American supreme allied commander has the ability to put instantly into context, without sounding too gung-ho, an Iraqi tactical move which has won valuable propaganda points for President Saddam Hussein but few military rosettes.

The fact that the Iraqis have emerged from their bunkers is in many ways to the allies' advantage. For five months American reconnaissance satellites and aircraft have watched as the Iraqis dug themselves deeper and deeper into the sand. One refugee arriving in Jordan painted the dramatic picture of a desert surface in southern Kuwait broken only by protruding gun barrels of the Iraqi tanks.

Allied commanders said the

Iraqis retained the capability to switch from defensive to offensive, merely by reversing the tanks from their burrows. There were also gaps in the obstacle belt along the border, allowing a thrust forward either by the Republican Guard divisions further north if they needed to sweep down in a counter-offensive against an allied breakthrough. Nevertheless, until the sudden series of raids by Iraqi armour and infantry, they looked set to stay underground, leaving the initiative to the allies.

The roles have now been reversed, with the Iraqis attacking and the allies forced to counter-attack. But tempting the Iraqis into the open has been one of the principal objectives of General Schwarzkopf and his "component commanders' committee" at allied headquarters in Riyadh. In the open they are immediately vulnerable to air, artillery and helicopter attack.

After the first clash on Tuesday

While this week's land battle may remain for Saddam a symbolic victory for his forces, the message to Baghdad is loud and clear: in the first Arab versus Arab ground attack of the war, the Iraqis were beaten, Michael Evans writes

evening, American officers were claiming that about 20 Iraqi tanks and armoured vehicles had been destroyed, 70 per cent by A10 Thunderbolt "tank-busters" and the rest by US Marine A6 bombers and Cobra helicopters. So far Iraq's combat helicopters, including at least 40 formidable Soviet Mi24 Hinds, have not entered the battlefield.

The battle for Khafji lasted 30 hours and will remain in Saddam's eyes a symbolic victory for his forces, even though they failed to hold on to the coastal town. But the allies, while recognising the fierce street-fighting qualities of Saddam's regular soldiers, can take considerable comfort from the fact that air

supremacy almost guarantees that any Iraqi advance into Saudi Arabia can be dealt with mercilessly from the skies as well as from the ground.

There is another crucial lesson learned from the battle. Saddam will have known that the area around Khafji was occupied by Arab forces, with the US Marines set further back. He clearly wanted to test the mettle of the Saudi and Gulf Co-operation Council units deployed there as a screening force. If he could rout them, sending them fleeing from the area, he could have claimed it was proof that the real war was between Iraq and the United States, not a coalition of Western and Arab nations. As it turned

out, the soldiers from Saudi Arabia and Qatar fought back fiercely.

Since it was a proper Iraqi mechanised battalion, and not just a sortie by dismounted conscript infantrymen, their performance will undoubtedly have raised a cheer among General Schwarzkopf's staff. Although US Marine Cobra helicopters provided air support, the Arab units were deliberately given the chance to finish off the Iraqi resistance in the town on their own. The message for Saddam was loud and clear: in the first Arab versus Arab ground attack of the war, the Iraqis were beaten.

Although the timing of the

Iraqi incursions may have caused surprise, some of the allied commanders, including Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, the British forces commander, have given warnings in recent weeks that an Iraqi pre-emptive strike into Saudi Arabia could not be ruled out.

It should be remembered that the original reason for deploying so many allied troops to Saudi Arabia was to defend the kingdom against an Iraqi invasion, not to mount an offensive. Six weeks ago General Schwarzkopf's mission was still only a defensive one. So the allied forces, now adequately reinforced to launch an offensive, should be fully capable of repelling any Iraqi sorties across the border even if, as in the case of Khafji, it takes nearly three days.

If Saddam's orders to his troops, delivered in person to the operational headquarters last Saturday at Basra, were to follow a strategy of constant harassment by battalion or even divisional

strength units, General Schwarzkopf's plan surely will draw them as far as he can in the Saudi desert before engaging them, cutting them off from the supply line and making return more hazardous. The Iraqis will afford to use up 100 million ammunition during this stage of the conflict, unless their purpose is to occupy Saudi territory permanently. Yesterday, Baghdad claimed that this was not its objective.

Because of increasing successful allied raids on ammunition dumps, the Iraqis face serious resupply difficulties if they mount too many bold raids which become bogged down in heavy crossfire. General Schwarzkopf reported on Wednesday that B52 bombers had off a huge explosion at an Iraqi ammunition depot. About 12 storage facilities at the largest ammunition site in the theatre of operations were destroyed. General Schwarzkopf said allied aircraft would be back.

Iraqi claim of female PoW focuses on risks

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

REPORTS yesterday of a missing female soldier in the Gulf have drawn attention to the risks faced by women in Operation Desert Storm. Women are prohibited by federal law from combat roles in the US armed forces but they are closer to the front lines of the Gulf war than of any war previously fought by the United States.

US central command said at its information centre in Riyadh that two soldiers, a woman and a man, were missing yesterday from a transportation battalion not involved in military action. A search party was looking for them.

Among the estimated 500,000 American troops in the Gulf are more than 28,000 women, which is about six per cent of the force arrayed against Iraq, compared with 11 per cent of the overall American forces on active duty around the world.

For months, military officers have wondered how reports of female casualties or deaths, if they come, might affect American public support for the war. Some have also worried about the possible damage to morale among fighting male troops if faced with the bloody deaths of their female colleagues. Although women serving in the Gulf have played down alleged sexism in the American forces, many have complained that male soldiers are often too protective towards them.

The women, which the American military refers to as "females", addressing officers as "ma'am", have undertaken a wider range of tasks than during any war in American history. They are in support roles attached to fighting units, including medical teams and parachute divisions. Unable to train as fighter pilots, women work alongside the "top guns" as vehicle operators and with ground troops as mechanics, military police officers, lorry drivers and suppliers of ammunition.

Since Panama, many women soldiers in the United States have argued they should be allowed in combat since many of their jobs place them at risk of attack and they are trained to use weapons in self-defence. Since the war in the Gulf began, American newspapers have carried articles about the women working at air bases in eastern Saudi Arabia, which has come under frequent attack by Iraq with Scud missiles although they are hundreds of miles from

the front lines. Patriot missiles have so far wiped out every incoming Scud, but other women are close enough to the Saudi borders with Kuwait and Iraq to fall under enemy fire.

Women soldiers were also among those who prepared allied aircraft for the barrage of sorties against Baghdad in the opening days of Operation Desert Storm. Those people against allowing women in combat have argued that Americans are not ready to cope with female casualties. Women who served in Vietnam as nurses disagree.

The American military readily provided information about the role of 174 women deployed to Panama in December 1989 in Operation Just Cause but does not appear enthusiastic to revive a debate about women in combat. Opinion polls do not bear out their concerns and the women soldiers themselves are divided.

A New York Times/CBS survey a year ago, after the American invasion of Panama, found that seven out of ten Americans thought the military should permit women to serve in combat if they wish. Women are barred from working on warships and flying warplanes in all branches of the military. The only Western country which allows women a limited role in combat is Canada.

● GENEVA: A Red Cross convoy carrying 19 tonnes of emergency medical and surgical supplies has crossed from Iran into Iraq, the International Committee of the Red Cross said. The convoy headed for Baghdad was accompanied by four delegates from the all-Swiss humanitarian agency. The ICRC said the mission — the first since the outbreak of war — was organized in conjunction with the Iranian and Iraqi Red Crescent societies, the Muslim equivalent of the Red Cross.

An ICRC spokesman said the composition of the supplies was based on an assessment carried out before hostilities erupted. He said ICRC officials had been unable to make a full evaluation of the needs of the civilian population in Iraq. The ICRC and the Iraqi Red Crescent will oversee distribution of the supplies.

The ICRC was still awaiting permission from Baghdad authorities to visit allied prisoners of war captured by Iraq. (AP)



Home comfort: Captain JoAnn Conley of North Dakota, one of 28,000 women serving in the Gulf, sporting a picture of her daughter.

DIPLOMATIC TACTICS

Tehran seeks role in security talks

By SHAUL BAKHASH

BY ALLOWING nearly 100 Iraqi aircraft safe haven in Iran, Tehran is positioning itself to have a say and a place at the table in any post-war negotiations on regional security.

There is little chance that Iran will release the aircraft before the war is over. Iran has no interest in helping Iraq to annex Kuwait. In fact, it would regard such a development as a grave threat to its own security. Since the start of the Kuwait crisis six months ago, Tehran has been consistent in demanding the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Evidence of growing support for Saddam Hussein in some Arab and Islamic states has not materially altered Tehran's position. When asked whether Iran would support Iraq if it were attacked by Israel, the Iranian ambassador to

the UN, Kamal Kharrazi, went so far as to say the "liberation of Palestine does not justify occupation of Kuwait". The current conflict, he noted, is not "a war between believers and infidels".

The Iranians fought a costly eight-year war with Saddam. He retained a superior and deadly military arsenal when the war ended in August 1988. They would like to see Saddam bloodied and humiliated. But they have also expressed concerns over the outcome of the conflict, which help explain Iranian policies.

First, the Tehran government fears the American military presence in the Gulf will be permanent, and that the United States will shape oil policies of the Arab states of the Gulf, as well as post-war regional security arrangements. The Iranians aspire to a

major role in the Gulf in the post-war period, but believe regional security arrangements under an American umbrella would enhance the influence of other countries, such as Saudi Arabia.

Iran also remains deeply suspicious of ultimate American intentions. Among the rumours that pass off as analysis making the rounds in Tehran is that once the Americans crush Iraq, they will turn their attention to Iran. Acquiescence in an American military presence in the Gulf would also run against revolutionary ideology.

The government has thus been insisting that post-war regional security must be guaranteed by the regional states themselves — a formula that would almost guarantee Iranian primacy — and exclude foreign powers. The Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Velayati recently discussed Iranian ideas for post-war security arrangements with states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC). The Iranians have also been consulting with Oman, Turkey and their close ally, Syria, though they seem to have no detailed proposals so far.

A second Iranian concern is unfinished business with Baghdad relating to a peace agreement formally ending the Iran-Iraq war. Two weeks after he invaded Kuwait, and in a bid to secure his eastern flank, Saddam Hussein wrote to Iranian President Ali-Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani ostensibly offering Iran peace on Iranian terms. "Everything you wanted has been achieved," he wrote.

But there have been hitches in finalising a peace agreement. The Iraqis have created difficulties on the return of Iranian POWs. Some bits of Iranian territory have remained under Iraqi occupation. Most important, Saddam Hussein may not be ready to concede Iran's essential demand — a return to the pre-war situation of joint sovereignty over the frontier waterway, the Shatt al-Arab.

The Iranians thus have reason to enhance their leverage with Saddam Hussein, or any future government at Baghdad. Such leverage will also be useful if, as the Iranians somewhat inconsistently also fear, the Americans will in the end cut a deal with Saddam

Hussein, leaving much of his military power intact.

Third, Iran is quietly beginning to express concern that Iraq will break up and Turkey will move in to grab the rich oil fields at Mosul and Kirkuk in northern Iraq. President Rafsanjani, with Syrian backing, recently sent an emissary to Ankara to emphasise the Iranian commitment to the territorial integrity of Iraq.

Finally, Iran does not wish to see Saddam Hussein secure the allegiance of the Muslim and Arab world on the street by standing up to America and Israel. The Islamic Republic can now be seen doing a favour for a brother Muslim country under American attack — with seemingly little cost to itself.

Shaul Bakhash is Professor of History at George Mason University Virginia and author of *Reign of the Ayatollahs: Iran and the Islamic Revolution*.

DAMAGE REPORT Kurds tell of allies' precision bombing

By HAZRAT TEIMOURIAN

A DETAILED account of the damage inflicted by allied bombers on the Kurdish region of northern Iraq was published yesterday by spokesmen of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the two largest guerrilla organisations fighting the Iraqi army there.

It said that although there had been instances when civilian targets had been mistaken for government establishments, the allied bombing had been executed with precision and care, leaving almost no site of military significance intact.

The account could not be independently verified, but the union has proved reliable in the past. It was responsible for disclosing the move of the explosion on Iraq's rocket research establishment south of Baghdad, in August 1989, which claimed 700 lives. Its members relay news abroad by radio and telephone.

Ahmed Barmani, spokesman for the union, said about 129,000 deserters from the Iraqi army and 150,000 civilians had fled from Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq, to seek refuge in cities throughout the Kurdistan region. He also said that there were hundreds of civilian casualties of allied air raids, and that a captured allied pilot had been executed.

Mr Barmani said he received information every two or three days from Kurdish sources in Iraq. There was no immediate means of confirming his detailed report. The union is one of five main Kurdish political parties forming the Kurdistan Front, which says it is preparing armed resistance against President Saddam Hussein.

Mr Barmani said 300 Iraqi soldiers in military convoys were killed on January 23 by allied bombing. Kirkuk, a major oil-producing city near the Iranian border, had been under allied bombing almost daily, he said, and hundreds of civilians were killed by bombs that missed their targets. But he said military bases, munitions depots, air bases and oil wells were hit by allied bombing.

Basra, a town built in northern Iraq after the 1988 chemical weapon attacks on Kurdistan, was heavily bombed on January 25, and at least 40 civilians died, he said. Mr Barmani said the pilot of an allied plane shot down over Mosul, near the Turkish border, had been executed by Iraqi secret police.

TECHNOLOGY

Anti-tank missile wins its spurs in battle

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

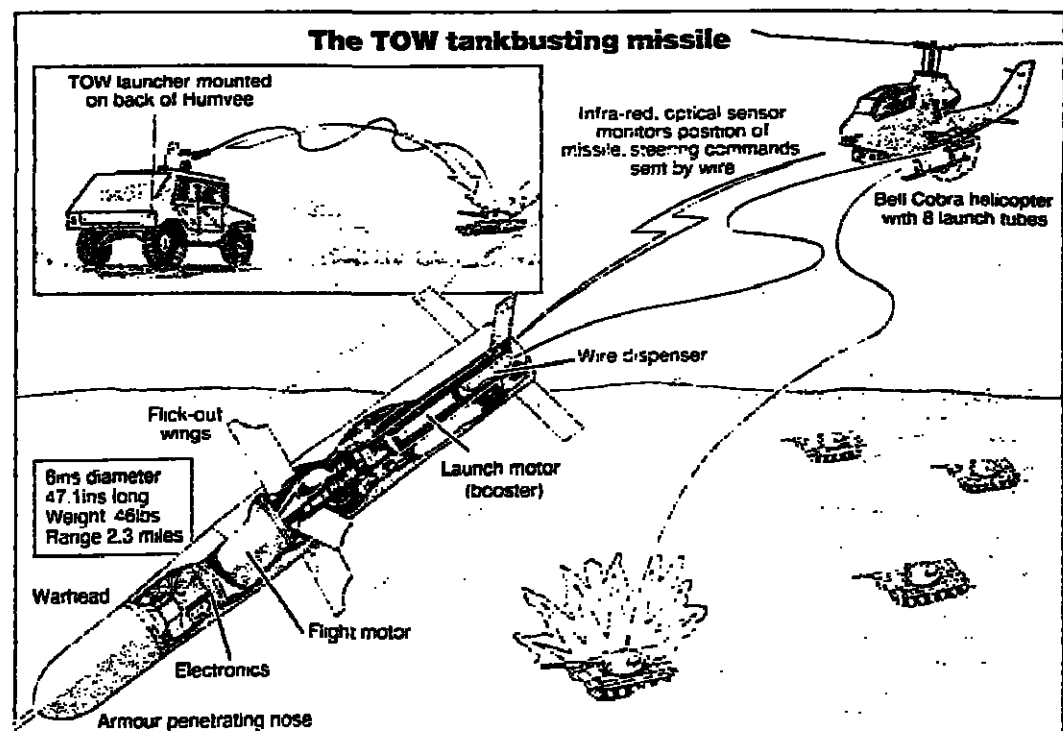
FOR the first time in the Gulf war allied forces deployed the TOW2 anti-tank missile during the battle of Khafji, scoring a spectacular success against Iraqi armour.

Columns of Soviet-made Iraqi tanks were hit by the wire-guided missile fired from Cobra helicopters and A10 Warthog tank-busting planes. The missiles can also be launched from cross-country vehicles such as jeeps and "Humvees".

The missile is made by Hughes Aircraft Corporation. Versions of it are in the inventories of some 36 countries, including Britain. Unlike many of the air-to-surface missiles launched so far in the Gulf war, the TOWs are guided by sight.

The gunner wears a pair of "smart" electronic binoculars and holds a joystick, or "mouse", to focus on a target. When too thin, white bars cross over the enemy tank in the sights, the missile is launched. As the rocket, which can fly close to the speed of sound, emerges from its launcher, four tail controls and four centrally positioned wings flick out.

Duncan Lennox, the editor of *Jane's Air-Launched Weapons*, said the missile was kept on target



by two pairs of computer-controlled wings, wound round bobbins, which are under the control of the gunner's sights and linked to the rear control fins. On launch a

light or infra-red heat source is illuminated on the TOW's tail, which is co-ordinated with the gunner's sightings. The source is constantly measured by the gun-

ner's sightings to ensure that the missile stays on target. The armour-piercing nose penetrates a tank, triggering a 13.2lb high-explosive charge.

WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 15

ALLIED FORCES

SORTIES: More than 30,000 allied air missions flown since war began, 2,800 yesterday.

LOSSES: Two US soldiers from a transport battalion, one of them a woman, went missing near the Saudi-Kuwait border. 11 US Marines were killed and two injured during fighting to repel Iraqi attacks on the abandoned Saudi border town of Khafji. US C-130 transport plane reported missing behind Iraqi lines. Up to 20 US personnel believed to be on board. 23 aircraft have been lost so far. 18 lost in combat, including 11 American, 5 British, 1 Kuwaiti, 1 Italian. Non-combat losses: 3 American planes, 1 British, 1 Saudi. One British plane point to be undetermined causes, 3 American helicopters to non-hostile causes. 28 soldiers missing in action, including 11 confirmed prisoners of war.

CLAIMS: Saudi troops and other Allied forces recaptured Khafji after Iraqi soldiers held the town for more than 30 hours. Fighting continued north of the town. RAF Jaguar fighter-bombers involved in the Allied counter-attack, sinking one Iraqi landing craft in northern Gulf. A US army spokesman said 160 Iraqi troops had been captured. US Marines said they were preparing for another Iraqi incursion near Wafra, 25 miles west of Khafji. British naval Lynx helicopter from HMS Gloucester reported to have sunk Iraqi TNC 45 patrol boat in northern Gulf. 15 Iraqi survivors of

Wednesday's attacks said to have been picked up in life rafts. Allied aircraft have now sunk or damaged 80 enemy vessels in the Gulf waters.

SCUD ATTACKS: Israeli army said one Iraqi Scud fired at West Bank. No reported casualties. Twelve people have been killed in Israel since first Iraqi missile attack on Jan 17.

IRAQI FORCES

CLAIMS: Iraq said US women soldiers, claimed to be among allied prisoners captured during incursions into Saudi Arabia, would be well treated. The country's official media hailed the ground battle at Khafji as a "triumph" and a turning point in the war. Baghdad Radio said Iraqi air and ground defences shot down 10 allied planes and missiles on Wednesday night and Thursday morning, including a US G-130 transport plane.

ALLIED WAR AIMS

John Major said it was impossible to determine in detail what was meant by UN resolution 678, which authorised the "use of all necessary means" to free Kuwait. "We will need to judge that in the light of circumstances and judge our actions against the security council resolutions."

After Saddam's threat to use chemical and nuclear weapons, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said the Iraqi leader must be stopped.

مركز الوثائق

LESSONS OF KHAJFI

Strategists mull over unexpected twist in script

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

BEHIND the televised bluster of General Norman Schwarzkopf, the American military commander in the Gulf, attempting to play down the significance of the temporary Iraqi occupation of the Saudi oil town of Khajfi (his dismissal of it as a "village" was patently inaccurate), Western military planners were yesterday assessing the lessons of the first land battle of the war.

Away from the television cameras, which have dictated so much instant public reaction in the first fortnight of fighting, the mood was more considered — with a realisation that the ability of Iraqi troops to hold a Saudi town containing vital oil and water desalination plants for more than 24 hours had headed the Baghdad regime an unnecessary psychological victory.

As one of the more thoughtful Western military officers observed, after hearing accounts of two failures by allied troops to recover the town overnight on Wednesday and in the early hours of yesterday: "This is a complicated battle. I'm afraid that we are not doing as well as we should

have been doing." His view was reflected more forcibly by a veteran American pool correspondent, who said with a grimace: "Whatever anyone tells you on the TV, the script for this war was not supposed to open with the Iraqis taking a town inside Saudi Arabia and holding it long enough for the news to get all around the Arab world."

At the headquarters of the joint American and British military information bureau in Dhahran, many Americans were visibly taken aback, and the first news that the Iraqis had succeeded in gaining control of Khajfi — 12 miles inside Saudi Arabia — began to filter through on Wednesday afternoon from the disjointed system of communications at the front line.

Only hours earlier, the Americans, who had seemed unable to stop themselves becoming victims of their own self-confidence, were enthusiastically briefing reporters that the Iraqi incursion had been dealt with at minimal allied costs and without much effort. "It seems we kicked arse," was how one smug American put it early on, before news of the town being in Iraqi hands.

The later accounts of a full-scale battle and tenacious Iraqi resistance in street fighting changed the atmosphere. "I thought these Iraqi troops were all supposed to be starving, ice-cold and longing only to surrender," one French observer said cynically. "If that is the case, I hope the allies do not come up against any in proper shape."

Among military analysts here, there remains surprise at the reluctance of American commanders to comprehend the Middle Eastern reality that the price of an Iraqi military life is cheap. Few analysts have any doubt that the cost in terms of public opinion of 12 dead marines was much greater than that of hundreds of Iraqis claimed by British government sources to have been slaughtered.

"Somehow, it was different to losing the airman — this was the start of something new," one US Army private said. "It has made people here on the ground think about the war in a different way. It is all coming a lot closer now."

The emotion felt by the American forces at their losses was demonstrated by a brave marine major, Craig Huddleston, who was close to tears as he voiced his sadness at the failure to recover two American soldiers believed lost inside Khajfi after their vehicle took a wrong turn.

Among the key lessons pointed out by senior military sources were the problems of communication and command between the American and other Allied forces, the relative unreliability of the Saudi army, which is still in a number of forward positions, and the penchant of the Iraqis for achieving surprise by mounting operations with little obvious military logic.

"What we have to learn is that the Iraqis are playing this to win on the stage of Arab and Third World opinion, not so much to win the land battle for Kuwait that, in the long run, they must know they are going to lose," one Western military source explained.

OIL RATIONING

Raids hit Jordan's supplies

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN AMMAN

THE Jordanian government yesterday announced it is to introduce oil and fuel rationing from next week, apparently as a result of allied air raids on the road from Baghdad to the Jordanian frontier.

The move comes after claims by Tahir al-Masri, the foreign minister, on Wednesday, that four Jordanian oil tanker drivers had been killed and 10 other people injured in allied air raids on the road on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr Masri summoned the American ambassador and envoys of UN security council member nations to protest at the attacks, which he called "this outrageous aggression on innocent Jordanian civilians and their property."

According to a government statement, rationing is to begin from Tuesday, after which almost all motorists will be permitted to use their cars on alternate days only. The use of government cars is to be halted and government offices are being ordered to reduce fuel consumption.

Economists were quoted in Amman as saying only a quarter of the normal 60,000 barrels of Iraqi crude had been reaching Jordan since the start of the allied bombing campaign, and the country may have as little as 21 days reserve supply left on which to draw.

Jordan uses hundreds of tonnes to import crude oil from Iraq at below-market prices and has been allowed to continue to do so despite United Nations sanctions until an alternative source can be found. Informed observers believe that tanker traffic has been severely disrupted by allied bombing.

As soon as American troops began deploying to Saudi Arabia, followed by British and other allied ground forces, forward reconnaissance patrols, working at night along the border, have kept a close watch for any Iraqi movements.

On occasions, the patrols have been over-enthusiastic. A French reconnaissance team, operating about 60 miles north of the main French forces, were caught by Iraqi soldiers after crossing the border, apparently in error. But that was well before hostilities began, and the French soldiers were returned to their units.

In recent weeks allied patrols will have been carried out every night. When two armies face each other across a border, it is inevitable there will be clashes in the lead-up to the main battle.

Some sources suggested yesterday that the US marines had carried out more aggressive patrols than most, as if spoiling for a fight.

Apart from night patrols, each side also has forward observation posts, consisting of small gunnery units concealed in the desert terrain, which provide target designation information to the artillery batteries. Both sides have fired artillery rounds across the border in recent weeks, partly to gauge the accuracy of the shells and the damage they cause.

The effectiveness of the allied observation posts has already been demonstrated. Several Iraqi artillery batteries launching shells over the border were quickly silenced by allied return fire.

The advance into Saudi Arabia by Iraqi forces shows the importance of the work

RECONNAISSANCE

Scouts give vital warning of action on the front line

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE first serious clash between Iraqi and allied ground forces on the Saudi-Kuwaiti border erupted after weeks of increasingly lethal probes by both sides.

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The advance into Saudi Arabia by Iraqi forces shows the importance of the work

carried out by the American army scouts.

It is their job to monitor the enemy's movements. They carry out night-time surveillance, close to and sometimes behind, Iraqi lines. As the Iraqis started their advance on Khajfi, the scouts were able to warn the allies to take up battle stations.

The scouts themselves are very lightly armed. When they are on their feet they sometimes carry nothing more than a rifle, but they have support teams protecting them.

Sergeant Jeff Cassidy is one of those who protects the scouts. "I am attached to the scouts of this mission, provide artillery for them if they need it. I think this is real vital what they are doing and they're real professional and they know what they're doing."

It is Sergeant Cassidy's job to back them up if they are in trouble. "Right, I'll be walking with them, if they need anything, I just call it in. Anything these guys could need, the sky's the limit... I could blow this area up in five minutes, sir."

The scouts will clearly play a key role in this war. If they succeed they can give the American troops a huge advantage. If they fail, however, just the opposite could be true. American forces could be caught off guard and then the advantage would belong to the enemy.

"We send the scout platoon out in front of soldiers to be able to take over the terrain, possibly put eyes on the enemy, get that information back to the decision-makers and the commanders, and that information is of course very, very vital when the enemy is attacking our positions," said Sergeant Cassidy. "We should be able to pick them up before they ever get close to our defensive position. That being the case we can mass our forces and destroy him before he ever gets close."

AIR SUPREMACY

Troop ship left ablaze as Jaguar goes in for the kill

FROM LIN JENKINS WITH THE RAF IN THE GULF

RAF Jaguars yesterday flew missions around the Saudi Arabian coastal town of Khajfi, attacking Iraqi ground troops and at sea destroying a 270ft Iraqi landing craft.

Wing Commander Bill Pixton, aged 39, one of two Jaguar pilots whose attacks destroyed a Soviet-built Polnochny class C vessel, believed to be moving troops, tanks and other equipment to the battle front, said the mission almost turned into an academic training exercise, with several re-attacks.

Part of the ship was already on fire when he was sent to search for it in the northern Gulf. "We got so used to looking at slides of targets, and to actually see one in the flesh was quite unusual. It just looked like one of the slides," he said with a broad smile. He described how he was

given a rough bearing for the vessel before flying to a lower level to look for it. "It was no more than about three or four minutes when I saw this smoke obviously coming from a ship so we turned in, and sure enough it turned out to be a Polnochny."

"The Awacs were telling us the picture was clear, there were no enemy fighters in the area. My professional counter-parts at home will probably have a fit, but we did two passes with rockets, and four passes guns each, when normally we would never consider re-attacking in a high-threat environment."

The 1,120-tonne Polnochny C class vessels are armed with four 30mm machineguns capable of firing 500 rounds a minute and two 122mm rocket launchers with a range of nine miles. Along with a

crew of 47, they can carry 180 troops and 350 tonnes of equipment, including six tanks.

Wing Commander Pixton said: "The indigenous triple A [anti-aircraft artillery] on the ship was quiet, and after four passes we noticed to the northeast of the ship was an orange liferaft, which we presumed had the crew on board. I'm pleased to say we did not strafe them in the water but we did hit their boat." The ship was left ablaze along the length of the superstructure.

Meanwhile, Wing Commander Ray Horwood, deputy commander of an RAF attachment in the Gulf, confirmed that RAF Jaguars were involved in ground attacks against Iraqi troops in the Khajfi area.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

BORDER ATTACK

Failure by PLO to open front

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN gunmen stepped up their attacks on Israel's northern border yesterday in a continuing attempt to open up a "second front" in support of Iraq. But three Palestinian infiltrators were shot dead by the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army, and the dozens of Katyusha rockets fired by Palestinians from southern Lebanon fell within Israel's self-declared "security zone". There were no injuries and no damage was caused. Israel responded by shelling PLO strongholds, including the Rashidiya refugee camp.

However, the Palestinian threat is taken seriously by Israel, which says the security zone, set up as a buffer in 1985, is proving its worth. The three would-be infiltrators were shot only two miles north of the northern Israeli settlement of Zarit.

Uri Lubrani, Israel's co-ordinator in southern Lebanon, said that despite denials from Tunis, the attacks had clearly been ordered by Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader. He said this clearly marked the PLO's reversion to terrorism after a period of diplomacy beginning in 1988. "Arafat has joined hands with Saddam, and their fate will be the same," Mr Lubrani said.

An infiltrator in Jordanian army uniform was shot dead in the Jordan Valley yesterday. A second Jordanian infiltrator escaped back across the river to the Jordanian side.

Germany yesterday began delivery of the first instalment of \$700 million (£357 million) of military aid to Israel. The supplies will eventually include Patriot anti-missile missiles, armoured cars for use in chemical or biological warfare, and two submarines. German diplomats in Israel said Germans were "deeply ashamed" that German firms had helped to develop Iraq's non-conventional military potential.

Opinion polls published yesterday showed that 80 per cent of Israelis still support the government's restraint in the face of both Scud and Katyusha attacks.

(Dispatches from Jerusalem contain only material passed by the Israeli military censor)



Ship-killer: crew reloading a British Lynx helicopter with Sea Skua air-to-surface missiles on the deck of HMS Broke in the Gulf yesterday

Crisis in Africa

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FAMILY AT WAR

Conflict pits brother against brother

FROM MICHAEL KNIFE IN MINYA EL-QAMEI, EGYPT

FATIAH Abdul Fattah is an Egyptian woman with more reason than most to hate the Gulf War. She has sons on both sides: one missing in Iraq, another enduring Scud missile attacks in Saudi Arabia and a third in the 35,000-strong Egyptian contingent of the multinational forces.

Her biggest fear is that one of her sons might kill his brother. In the modest sitting-room of the Fattah home, on a narrow dirt street in this rural town 50 miles north of Cairo she wrings her hands.

"I wish, not only for my own sons but for those of every mother on both sides, that the fighting should end," she says.

In the room are framed photographs of her absent sons. Her husband Ahmed Abdul Fattah, a 63-year-old retired labourer, shares her concern, but it is Mrs Fattah's quiet anguish that dominates this family.

In her traditional black gown and black head scarf, she is a striking figure. Her clear

complexion belies the fact that she is 59 years old and the mother of ten children. A half smile suggests that she can see the irony of her particular predicament but she is clearly close to weeping as she talks of her sons.

"We all worry, but mother is the one who is suffering most," says her daughter Widad, aged 26. "She doesn't sleep at night, all the time watching television or listening to the radio and worrying about my brothers."

Nearly 1.6 million Egyptians were working in Iraq, forced abroad by the poverty at home, when Kuwait was invaded in August. Although 400,000 have since returned more than a million are thought to be still there.

Their plight has been taken up by Refaat el-Saeed, a left-wing opposition politician. "In 22,000 allied air raid sorties it will be a miracle if many Egyptians have not died along with their Iraqi brothers," he said, trying to turn people against the war. Some

Egyptians who have managed to return home since the war started said they had been forced to join Iraq's Popular Army, an auxiliary force composed mainly of those too young or too old for regular service. They said they had escaped and fled through Jordan.

Egyptian security officials have claimed that Iraqi officials have tried to recruit some of the returning Egyptians to carry out acts of sabotage. A neighbour of the Fattahs recalls the tales of how Iraqis mistreated their Egyptian guest workers. The body of his own son was returned just before the invasion, he said, and he was convinced he had been killed.

Mrs Fattah's most optimistic thought is that if the Iraqis had attempted to force her son Sayid to join the Iraqi army he would have refused "because he would not want to fight his own brother". The whole family supports Egypt's participation in the multinational forces and estimate that 80 per

cent of their community do so. "The devil Hussein should withdraw his forces and let God put peace into his mind," Mrs Fattah said. "If they'd let me, I'd go and fight too," said her old father.

Sayid Fattah, aged 32, like many Egyptian labourers, heard he could earn more in Baghdad and went there two years ago. His brother Abdul, aged 30, took similar action but went to Saudi Arabia. In the past two weeks he has sent messages to say that he is safe. But the letters Sayid wrote regularly every fortnight from Baghdad stopped coming immediately after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait six months ago.

Khaled, aged 19, joined the Egyptian army two years ago. He is now stationed in Saudi Arabia close to the Kuwaiti border ready to fight. "Since he was a young boy he wanted to be a soldier," said his mother, sure that it was only boys' talk. "But he never imagined that would involve fighting the Iraqis."

BRITAIN

France dismisses London concerns over Iran initiative

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRANCE'S unexpected decision to send a senior diplomat to Iran, at the same time as the Iraqi deputy prime minister and two other senior Arab officials are there pressing for a ceasefire in the Gulf war, has caused consternation in Britain.

The Foreign Office was given no warning of the move, and first learned of it from a Tehran radio broadcast. When David Gore-Booth, an assistant under-secretary of state, yesterday telephoned his opposite number in Paris, to ask whether France was proposing to join in any peace moves now being put forward by Algeria and Yemen, he was told that any such idea was "incredible" and "absurd".

The French insisted that the visit by Francois Scher, the secretary general of the Quai d'Orsay, was purely bilateral — to discuss Franco-Iranian relations as part of a round of discussions in the Maghreb and the Middle East. He carried no "mandate for a new peace initiative". The presence in Tehran of Sadoun Hammadi, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Ahmed Ghazali, the Algerian foreign

minister, and his Yemeni colleague was coincidental, and France knew nothing in advance of this.

Pierre Joxe, the new defence minister, said France would be "attentive" to any Arab leader who wanted to talk about peace. But he insisted that France would not flinch from the task of liberating Kuwait, even if this meant heavy civilian casualties in Iraq.

The foreign ministry spokesman said M. Scher would not meet Iraqi officials in Tehran. His mission was "to pursue with the authorities of this country (Iran) contacts that the situation in the Gulf justify".

M. Joxe said yesterday that he would go to London to meet the defence secretary, Tom King, before the weekend, and then travel to Saudi Arabia to try to boost the morale of the 10,000 French troops stationed in the kingdom. On return from Saudi Arabia, M. Joxe said that he would visit the southern French city of Toulon, from where members of the 12,000-strong French expeditionary force deployed in the Gulf left

for the region. M. Joxe marked out his differences from his predecessor, M. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, whom he replaced on Wednesday after Mr Chevènement resigned on the grounds that he opposed the war. Asked about M. Chevènement's allegation that the goals of the war had changed since the conflict began two weeks ago, he said he believed there had been no change in American, French or UN objectives since the start of the war. Decisions about the confrontation followed weeks and months of discussions and were made in the United Nations with support from dozens of nations across the world, M. Joxe said.

Asked if he was concerned now that allied forces have taken their first ground casualties, M. Joxe said: "The tragic news that always arrives when there is a war is emotive but it does not shake us."

Britain yesterday put a brave face on the French initiative in Iran, saying that any move that might encourage President Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq was welcome. But behind the expression of confidence in French solidarity, there was clear nervousness in Whitehall. Britain is still smarting from the French refusal to tell the prime minister, John Major, of President Mitterrand's last-ditch attempt to negotiate a diplomatic solution before the outbreak of war.

Britain's suspicions have been roused by the continuing dialogue between France and Algeria, where there have been mass demonstrations against the war and strong criticism of France. M. Scher has just been to Jordan. Another senior French official was last week in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Libya.

Iran, the official Iranian news agency, said yesterday that Mr Hammadi had arrived in Tehran with a message for President Rafsanjani from Saddam.

A French spokesman would not give details of M. Scher's mission to Baghdad, but he was expected to ask for assurances that Iran would remain neutral in the war, and for explanations of the flight of Iraqi planes to Iran. M. Scher is expected to remain in Iran until Saturday.

British officials said yesterday that it was likely statesmen would "pop up" all over the Middle East and outline proposals to end the war. They said that Iran may have itself staged the invitations, so the French official would be in Tehran at the same time as Mr Hammadi.

On arrival in Tehran, Mr Hammadi, quoted by Iran, vowed that the Iraqi people would resist the aggression to the last, and defeat the aggression in the face of the massive allied air assault. The Americans had not even spared clinics, paper plants and factories producing powdered milk, or even residential areas or such holy cities as Najaf, he was quoted as saying. The Iraqi envoy was greeted by the Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati.

European rift, page 10



Official hug: Dan Quayle, the vice-president, chats to the daughters of an American airman fighting in the Gulf, during a visit to the US Air Force base at Lakenheath, Suffolk, yesterday. He later met John Major and Douglas Hurd in London

NORTH AFRICA

Islamic hardliners take to the streets for Iraq

By SUSAN MACDONALD

FUNDAMENTALIST Muslims were protesting yesterday in Algeria against President Chadli Benjedid's speech last week on the dangers of exploiting the Gulf war.

In a pro-Iraq rally called by Abbasi Madani, the Islamic Front leader, about 60,000 people marched in the rain shouting "Victory to Islam and the Muslims". Earlier this month 400,000 followers demanded military training in Algeria for those who wanted to go and fight with the Iraqis.

On Monday Moroccan trade unions organised a one-day strike of "solidarity with Iraq" and people were invited to stay home and fast. The streets were deserted in several towns, such was the intensity of feeling against the allied bombing of Iraq.

President Zine ben Ali of Tunisia continually appeals for restraint and calm. Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya is said to be finding it harder and harder to remain neutral; and there have been disturbances in Egypt and Syria. Few would wish to be in King Hussein of Jordan's shoes and France has increased its diplomatic juggling to maintain its historic links with the Maghreb, and Arab world, while participating in the push against Iraq.

President Bush says he is fighting for a new era of peace and stability in the Middle East, but President Saddam Hussein hopes that the longer the war goes on, and the more the Iraqis are seen to be taking a beating, the greater the possibility of an uprising in other Arab states against their pro-Western or neutral leaders.

President Mubarak of Egypt has visited King Fahd in Saudi Arabia and King Gaddafi this week to keep the Arab anti-Iraq alliance in place.

King Hassan of Morocco has defied his country with a rod of iron for nearly thirty years. What Saddam did in August, King Hassan did in the Western Sahara in 1975, by marching into a former Spanish colony which he said rightfully belonged to him. About 200,000 troops are still defending the territory against attacks from its inhabitants who do not agree with him.

But the king was one of the first, with Egypt, to support the West by sending troops to the Gulf. The pressure from Moroccans to recall them



Chadli speech incited wrath of Islamic Front

grows daily. The king defused that pressure slightly with his speech on the eve of war when he said that, while the Moroccan position was opposed to that of Iraq, "our hearts are with the Iraqi people".

Algeria is well down the road to change and the days are numbered for the National Liberation Front, in power since 1962, with the advent of multiparty elections in June. But the war has given new impetus to the strong Islamic Front, just when many Algerians were beginning to oppose their intolerant actions.

Mr Madani has had many years to plan for an Islamic state in Algeria and he is prepared to go along with calls for a holy war for his own ends. He went to Baghdad for meetings with Saddam after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He has close, some say financial, links with certain Muslim extremists in Britain.

France sees more clearly than any other country the "nightmare scenario" of Arabs rising up against their rulers in the name of Saddam, and the consequences for Europe. France's relationship with North Africa and the Arab world is in jeopardy, as is its relationship with the more than three million people of Arab origin living in France.

This week Michel Vauzelle, the Mitterrand aide who held talks with Saddam in December, was dispatched to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, and Francois Scher, secretary-general at the foreign ministry, went to Jordan and Tehran.

SOVIET UNION

General casts doubt on victory

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

GENERAL Sergei Bogdanov, head of the Soviet armed forces' operational research centre, said in an interview published yesterday that victory by the allies in the Gulf war was not a foregone conclusion, even though their combined forces were greater than those of Iraq.

This was partly because Baghdad's arsenal was still big enough to inflict "significant losses" on its enemies, and partly because the allies themselves were divided over whether war aims should go

beyond the liberation of Kuwait.

Driving home a point that is frequently being made in Moscow, he said the UN resolution did not provide a mandate for the "total destruction of Iraq's military-industrial potential".

Asked by the army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) whether the conflict posed a "direct threat" to the Soviet Union, he said: "At the moment there is no reason to talk of a direct threat, but one cannot forget that the war is

going on a few hundred kilometres from our borders. So there is cause for a certain anxiety, especially in view of the growing likelihood that the scale of the war will increase, that other countries will be drawn in, and that both sides will use weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Vitali Churkin, the foreign ministry's chief spokesman, said Moscow was hoping the "Persian Gulf conflict will not go beyond its current dimensions which are already dangerous enough".

There was humour. This is "the luckiest man in Iraq", he announced as a vehicle, caught momentarily in the cross-hairs of an allied bomber, scurried across a bridge on the video screen. "The view from his rear-view mirror," he remarked as the bridge, the real target, exploded into a huge black cloud.

There was the little dramatic flourish at the end directed at the Iraqi leader, who is known to watch CNN: "With regard to Saddam Hussein saying that he has met the best the coalition has to offer, I would only say the best is yet to come."

Broadcasters and newspapers have been complaining vociferously about the straitjacket placed upon them, but they enjoy little public sympathy. This is another battle the military is winning handsomely. A second poll, conducted by the *Los Angeles Times* in their *Row* campaign, showed 78 per cent of Americans approve of the Pentagon's restrictions on the media.

Deportee case lawyers win time

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A HOME Office panel handling representations from 50 Iraqi and Palestinian facing deportation yesterday announced it would accept applications to give detainees more time to prepare their cases.

There had been protests when lawyers and families discovered on Wednesday night that the advisory panel chaired by Lord Justice Lloyd planned to sit today, Monday and Tuesday. The judge is due to sit on Thursday in a preliminary hearing of the Birmingham Six appeal, and will be the senior judge at the full hearing starting on February 25 for which he will have to prepare.

On Monday, 39 detainees were moved from Pentonville prison to more modern conditions at Full Sutton prison, near York. Yesterday, 29 were moved back to Pentonville for the hearings, which will take place in private, while another 10 remain at Full Sutton. A further 11 are already in London prisons. Seven are free, but under orders restricting movement.

A spokeswoman for the Home Office said the judge had not set a time limit for the hearings. "Anyone who requests any more time to prepare their case before the advisers will be able to seek an adjournment or postponement, and Lord Justice Lloyd has indicated that he will be quite prepared to do that."

She added that if the Home Secretary decided to go ahead with deportation, it was possible to apply for political asylum or make fresh representations to the Home Office. Twelve of the detainees have so far asked for asylum.

The panel has two extra members who can be called in, but the spokeswoman could not say whether their use had been considered, or could be considered, in order to relieve the judge.

David Burgess, who is representing seven of the detainees, said: "We need at least ten days to prepare." John Sauer, speaking for a committee of friends and family formed to help the Palestinians, said that since the detainees would not know the charges against them, longer time to prepare might not make much difference.

The deportation process, sparked off by the Gulf war and fears of terrorism, has already aroused controversy. MI5 and Special Branch officers have been accused of devising a list which is inaccurate, and includes men who could not be classified as a threat to security.

Last weekend, one wealthy Palestinian businessman who is a naturalised American citizen was released after representations directly to the Home Office. Other detainees include a noted Palestinian writer who publicly supports entente with Israel.

Royal visit to India is off

London — Next month's six-day official visit by the Prince and Princess of Wales to India has been postponed because of the Gulf war, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. The announcement was made while the Princess was spending the day in Germany visiting the families of British servicemen involved in Gulf operations (Alan Hamilton writes).

The Indian visit was called off on the advice of the Foreign Office after consultations with the Indian government. Security considerations were paramount in the decision, although a palace spokesman also pointed out that the timing was inappropriate. A planned visit by the couple to Brazil, and a tour by the Queen to the United States in May, are expected to go ahead.

During her visit to RAF Bruggen yesterday, the Princess told aircrew's wives that she, like them, sat up late at night watching the latest Gulf news on television. Among those she met was Christine Atkinson, whose husband, Bob, a Tornado navigator, has been missing since January 23 after a bombing raid on Baghdad.

The Princess told pilots' wives she thought the Tornado crews were "wonderful".

Italian navy chief

Rome — Admiral Enrico Martinotti is to replace Admiral Mario Burchia as commander of the Italian naval contingent in the Gulf, the defence ministry announced here. Admiral Burchia resigned on Wednesday after a magazine interview in which he doubted the allies' decision to go to war.

Papers found

Athens — Documents, including a passport and security pass, stolen from a British naval officer in Athens, have been found. The British embassy said. The car of Commander Christopher Morgan, Britain's Nato representative at the Greek defence ministry, was broken into and his briefcase stolen. (Reuter)

Spokesman held

Beirut — Walid Khaleel, the spokesman for Abu Nidal's Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council, has been arrested at Beirut airport for travelling on a forged passport. Police said that he was arrested on Tuesday evening on his arrival from Tunis using a Jordanian passport. (AP)

Saddam babies

Jakarta — The Indonesian Antara news agency said 18 babies born in the past two weeks in the Ketapang district of Borneo have been named Saddam Hussein. State television does not reach remote districts, but Muslim couples avidly follow reports of the Gulf war on satellite television from Malaysia. (Reuter)

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AMERICA

Pentagon wins battle for hearts and minds

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IN TWO weeks the Pentagon has become America's most trusted institution. Eighty-five per cent of the people have confidence in the American military, its highest rating in two decades, way ahead of the Supreme Court, Congress and the nation's churches, according to a *Washington Post* poll. The Pentagon's mastery of the enemy is not the only reason. It has also mastered another old foe — the media.

The lessons of Vietnam have been learned and learned well. Reporters have been made to join pools that are allowed nowhere near the action. There has been no blood, no bodies and few pictures of destruction on television, hardly a story of the inevitable logistical foul-ups. And then, of course, there are two supremely telegraphic generals, Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of Operation Desert Storm, and Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of

staff, have proved star turns. On consecutive weeks they have bided their time as public anxiety rose and then demolished the country's fears with performances so confident and polished that it is impossible to believe these wardogs have not been coached in presentation.

Last week General Powell arrived in the Pentagon's briefing room armed with charts and sound bites and a situation report so upbeat that it left the media groping for some sort of comeback. "Our strategy to go after this army is very, very simple. First we're going to cut it off and then we're going to kill it," he said. The Iraqi army was "sitting there, waiting to be attacked, and attacked it will be".

His composure and assurance belied a man who had barely been home since the war began, relying on occasional naps on his office couch.

General Schwarzkopf's briefing on Wednesday was reviews normally reserved for actors. "Vintage Schwarzkopf: tough, compassionate, humorous, sincere," wrote USA To-

day. "Another crackpot military briefing, televised live from Riyadh," enthused the *Washington Post*.

He had had news to impart. Twelve marines had been killed that day. He slipped the fact in at the end of a dazzling list of achievements by the allied air offensive, ensuring that the deaths were reported in perspective and did not become the story.

It was a performance planned right down to the public relations officer who, for the benefit of four American television networks carrying the briefing live, counted down the seconds as General Schwarzkopf approached the podium. There were the usual neatly subtitled videotapes showing the clinical destruction of Iraqi targets with never a human in sight.

There were touches of staged anger. The Red Cross had inspected American prisoners of war camps. "I challenge, I challenge, the Iraqis right now to do the same damn thing in their POW camps," thundered General Schwarzkopf, his voice rising. He then smiled at the reporter

and remarked, *sotto voce*: "Thanks for the question."

There was humour. This is "the luckiest man in Iraq", he announced as a vehicle, caught momentarily in the cross-hairs of an allied bomber, scurried across a bridge on the video screen. "The view from his rear-view mirror," he remarked as the bridge, the real target, exploded into a huge black cloud.

There was the little dramatic flourish at the end directed at the Iraqi leader, who is known to watch CNN: "With regard to Saddam Hussein saying that he has met the best the coalition has to offer, I would only say the best is yet to come."

Broadcasters and newspapers have been complaining vociferously about the straitjacket placed upon them, but they enjoy little public sympathy. This is another battle the military is winning handsomely. A second poll, conducted by the *Los Angeles Times* in their *Row* campaign, showed 78 per cent of Americans approve of the Pentagon's restrictions on the media.

Sanctions 'should go if de Klerk offers more reform'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major is to urge the Commonwealth to withdraw sanctions against South Africa if President de Klerk announces further measures on the dismantling of apartheid, as he expects him to do within the next few days.

The prime minister is also ready to contemplate a visit to South Africa if he believes it will contribute to the disappearance of what he calls the "odious apparatus" of apartheid.

Mr Major told *The Times*: "I think we can see our way through the difficulties that have divided the Commonwealth in some ways over South Africa. The changes we have seen in South Africa are remarkable and there will be more to come. I have no doubt

SOUTH AFRICA

very shortly in South Africa." He added: "Most of the odious apparatus of apartheid is being swept away. I think that is overdue and I welcome it without reservation."

"It is because of that that we were able to persuade our European Community partners in Rome to lift the investment ban on South Africa. If the rest of this apparatus is swept away, the legislative impediment on Congress will have gone and the Americans can lift their sanctions as well, and I believe, if they make further moves in February, that the Commonwealth must do so as well." Mr Major, who has

already told Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth secretary-general, of his views, said: "I will expect the Commonwealth to begin to remove sanctions very shortly." He added: "The objective must be to bring South Africa back into the community of nations and that means in terms of trade, sporting and political links."

The prime minister said that he could see the possibility arising of a huge prize for the whole of Africa. "It removes a running sore. The opportunity for that is coming and the Commonwealth will have to play a key role in that. So will we within the Commonwealth."

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Major said that he welcomed the meeting between Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela and hinted at further progress soon on apartheid.



Rumbold: rejects Labour party 'ideology' attack

Minister hints at wider jail sell-off

By QUENTIN COWDREY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRISON SERVICE

MINISTERS signalled yesterday that they may sanction a broader experiment in jail privatisation, involving all kinds of penal establishments.

Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister, said that she was unabashed by Labour claims that ministers were ideologically fixated on jail privatisation and indicated clearly that they were considering allowing firms to run a wide range of jails.

Her comments came as right-wing Tory backbenchers tried to amend the Criminal Justice bill to give the Home Office the freedom to contract out the operations of any jail. The bill simply allows companies to run remand centres, though at present the department is planning to invite tenders for only a single establishment.

Government sources suggested later that it was unlikely that ministers would accept the backbenchers' amendments, but added that there was a good chance that a Tory amendment to the bill would be accepted. The bill is now in the hands of the Home Office, which is expected to bring it back to the Commons in a few days.

Rejecting Labour allegations that the amendment had been engineered by ministers,

R.W. Johnson, page 10

Leading article, page 11

Children 'must come first in divorce reform'

By JOHN WINDER

HOUSE OF LORDS

THE government's first priority in reforming divorce law will be to protect children from the harm that family breakdown can inflict on them, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said yesterday.

Opening a debate in the House of Lords on the Law Commission's report, *The Ground for Divorce*, he said: "That objective, in the context of divorce, will be best secured, in most people's minds, by a law which supports the institution of marriage and promotes the prospects of

saving marriages which run into trouble."

When that was not possible, the law should promote the prospects of parents reaching agreement about children, and related issues of money and property, and establishing a working relationship in which, though separated, both could play a full part in the child's upbringing.

"Overall our objective is not only to improve the substantive law but also to ensure that best use is made of existing resources... with courts concentrating on what they are good at: the resolution of disputes where an authoritative judicial decision has something to contribute to the family's wellbeing."

There had been 151,309 divorces in 1989 and only 36,420 in 1988 and more than 184,000 in 1989 to 189,255 last year.

More worrying were figures of the number of orders relating to the upbringing of children involved in divorce which in 1989 had reached 152,825, of which more than 100,000 were contested. It thus appeared that more than 148,162 children under 16 were affected by divorce in 1989.

"If current trends continue, almost one in four of all children will experience divorce in their family before the age of 16. Those are sombre figures, especially when one looks to see what effects research has shown family breakdown to have on the lives of children."

That had shown emotional disruption, and not just in the short term, but on into adolescence and even adulthood, in increased delinquency, ill health and divorces of the children of broken homes.

The Archbishop of York, the Most Rev John Habgood, welcomed the commission proposals, with reservations. He said that any legislation resulting from the report had to be framed so that divorce could not become a mere formality. "Otherwise we tip the balance too far in the direction of the couple themselves and away from the long-term interests of the community."

Mr Major said: "The CPS has played an important role in developing and explaining Conservative ideas. I am keen for that to continue. I am delighted to become patron and look forward to the CPS continuing to contribute to Conservative policy."

Mrs Thatcher founded the centre with Sir Keith Joseph in 1974.

Leading article, page 11



Help for E Europe students

The government is to provide £1.2 million in the next financial year to provide 300 scholarships to enable students from Eastern Europe, excluding the Soviet Union, to study in the United Kingdom. Mark Lennox-Boyd, a Foreign Office minister, said.

Query costs

Answering the 436 questions on the accountancy profession tabled by Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab) and Jim Cousins (Newcastle upon Tyne Central, Lab) in the past 14 months has cost up to £60,000.

Budget day

The Budget will be on Tuesday, March 19.

Parliament next week

The main business in the Commons next week will be:

Monday: Debate on private member's motion on support for the family. Coal Mining Subsidence bill, second reading. Tuesday: Statutory Sick Pay bill. Lords amendments. Namibia bill, second reading. Wednesday: Debates on Opposition motions on training and on science education. Thursday: Disability allowance bills, remaining stages. Friday: Private members' bills.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Planning and Compensation bill, committee, third day. Tuesday: New Roads and Street Works bill, report, second day. Debate on Aids. Wednesday: Debates on the UN charter, on farm over-production, and on the Baltic states. Thursday: Statutory Sick Pay bill. Commons amendments. Planning and Compensation bill, fourth day.

Parliament today Commons (9.30): Private member's bill: NHS (Compensation) bill, second reading.

No-fault bill faces whips' onslaught

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, will lead a concerted government operation today to kill off a private member's bill proposing a system of no-fault compensation for the victims of medical mishaps.

Rosie Barnes, the independent SDP MP for Greenwich, has all-party support for her measure, which is official Labour party policy.

However, government whips are confident that they can wheel out the

sheer cost of introducing no-fault compensation would have been sufficient to persuade the government to mobilise its Commons majority to ensure that Mrs Barnes's bill does not proceed beyond the second reading debate.

Ministers have estimated that it would add £300 million to £400 million to public spending. They have also pointed out that New Zealand's all-embracing scheme covering all kinds of accidents would cost £8 billion a year if translated in full to the United Kingdom.

However, Mr Waldegrave is also intent on "winning the argument" in the face of an influential cross-party lobby supported by the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and the Law Society.

He will maintain that the bill would not solve the problem posed by emotive cases such as the haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus. That is because such patients would not be satisfied with a modest award from Mrs Barnes's proposed compensation board and would still pursue their claims through the courts.

The health secretary will also maintain that no-fault compensation would worsen the relationships between doctors and patients. Although claimants would not have to prove that their injuries were the result of negligence, they would still have to establish a causal link between them and their treatment.

Mrs Barnes has told her potential backbench supporters that her bill would not require any new public money. She has pointed out that under present arrangements only £60 of every £100 awarded by the courts goes to the victims.

Government whips have made abundantly clear to their backbenchers that they are expected to be at the Commons on a day when they are normally in their constituencies. Senior ministers have also been told to be ready to go to the Commons.

No whip has been applied to Labour MPs, although Harriet Harman, an Opposition health spokesman, has asked them to turn up and back the measure.



Barnes: her measure has all-party support

troops to crush her proposal even if she amasses sufficient support to force a vote on the issue. Alternatively, her bill will be talked out.

MPs want clearer microwave labels

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOOD SAFETY

A SYSTEM of laymen's labels on microwave ovens to show their power rating and suitability for family or commercial use will be demanded next week by the Commons agriculture committee.

MPs received evidence of the risks of food poisoning from under-cooked food when commercial caterers use models designed for domestic use only. They were told that domestic microwave ovens, if used almost constantly, did not always reach or stay at the stated temperature.

The report is to recommend the introduction of at-a-glance information urging users to take more care when reheating food to reduce the risks of stomach upsets or poisoning. The report is also expected to call for a standard form of instructions on packaged food stating the times and temperature when cooking in microwave ovens.

Surveys by health inspectors have disclosed that more than half of commercial premises rely on domestic microwave ovens. One study carried out by Sandwell metropolitan borough council found that 55 per cent of reheated takeaway meals failed to reach the minimum safety temperature of 70C for at least two minutes, although they looked hot.

In evidence to the com-

mittee, the agriculture ministry was cautious about the dangers from using domestic appliances in commercial outlets. Officials said, however, that the power output was likely to fall and food would take longer to heat if lighter appliances were used intensively. Research has been commissioned by the ministry into the changes of power output during continuous use.

The Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances said most domestic models were designed for 2,000 hours' output, which represented 32 years in normal domestic use. After that time, power output would usually fall by about a tenth.

The committee has accepted the recommendations from the Institution of Environmental Health Officers that domestic models should not be used by commercial caterers because of doubts about their safety and that a compulsory labelling system should be introduced.

The institution also gave the committee correspondence between its officials and the ministry. A ministry official agreed that busy catering establishments might tend to skimp on heating times, and instructions on catering packs of food might assume that a higher-powered commercial model was being used.



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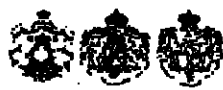
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Public sector pay review bodies' recommendations

Forces get big unstaged rise to reflect war duty

By ROBIN OAKLEY, PHILIP WEBSTER AND PHILIP BASSETT

BRITAIN'S 40,000 service men in the Gulf were given a boost yesterday as the government decided that the armed forces should receive a full pay rise ranging up to 18 per cent.

Other public sector pay groups are to have their increases paid in stages as a result of growing pressure on public expenditure. The cabinet made a special case of the forces because so many of them are on active service.

It had received an unusually strong recommendation from the armed forces pay review body, which completed its report before the Gulf war began, to implement the award in full because of the

damaging effect of last year's decision to phase the award. In a Commons reply yesterday the prime minister disclosed that the pay bill increases recommended by the review bodies were 12.2 per cent for the armed forces (with increases ranging from 11.2 to 18 per cent), 10.8 per cent for professions allied to medicine (range 10.0 to 14.2), 10.2 for doctors and dentists (9.5 to 12.7), 9.7 per cent for nursing staff, midwives and health visitors (9.5 to 11.0) and 9.6 per cent for people such as judges and top civil servants covered by the top salaries review (9.5 to 12.1). It was disclosed separately that the pay bill increase recommended for teachers was 10 per cent (9.5 to 14.7).

For all categories other than the forces the awards are to be

staged, with an increase of at least 7.5 per cent paid from April 1 and the balance paid from December 1. The staging means that the average pay rise over the full year for all the groups is about 8.5 per cent. The government has accepted all proposed improvements in pay structure designed to assist in recruiting and maintaining staff.

An extra £250 million is being made available from the contingency reserve to help to meet the health service awards and an extra £70 million for the forces award. Other awards will be met within the planning totals published in the autumn statement.

The public expenditure cost of the review body awards was £385 million for teachers, £696 million for nursing staff and midwives, £536 million for the forces, £454 million for doctors and dentists and £74 million for professions allied to medicine.

Ministers were clearly disappointed by the level of the pay review body awards. They had been looking for increases in line with the underlying inflation rate of 7-8 per cent rather than the peak rate of 10.9 per cent last October. The government has been urging moderation on private sector pay negotiators, saying that excessive pay settlements will increase unemployment.

The pay review body awards are broadly in line with the current level of pay settlements, which the in-

dependent pay research company Incomes Data Services said yesterday was still running at 9-10 per cent. Alistair Hatcher, for the service, said that the size of the review bodies' recommendations clearly showed their concern that the pay of the groups covered was falling behind the market. Chris Tinker, pay research fellow at the Public Finance Foundation, said the awards highlighted the "shambles" of public service pay policy.

The decision to stage all the awards apart from the armed forces was attacked by unions. Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said the award was a "wasted opportunity".

The armed forces' pay review body, in its report to the government, expressed concern at the decision to stage last year's award. It said that the staging had reduced the award on April 1 last year to 7 per cent at a time when the underlying inflation rate was 9.75 per cent. This had caused

resentment in the services. "We attach great importance to our recommendations in this report being implemented in full on 1 April," it said. "We have made our recommendations specifically to address the current problems of service personnel and believe that they should set no precedent for other groups of employees."

There was also an immediate increase for reservists, bonuses for Royal Navy officers on full career commissions and enlistment bounties for recruits to some army units which are undermanned. The report said the recommendations were "fair and equitable" both to service personnel and to the taxpayer.

The armed forces will also as usual receive in addition what is described as the "X factor", designed to compensate for the disadvantages of service life. The prime minister's reply yesterday said that this would be larger for women than for men and would remove all pay distinctions between the sexes.



HEALTH SERVICE SALARIES			
Post	1990-91 £	1991-92 £	
House officer	11,255-12,705	12,325-13,915	
Senior house officer	14,040-17,820	15,375-19,515	
Registrar	15,825-19,310	17,440-21,145	
Senior registrar	18,340-23,190	20,080-25,450	
Consultant	32,520-41,960	35,930-46,390	
Senior medical and dental officer	32,850	37,065	
Associate specialist	19,460-33,650	21,310-37,065	
Dental officer	16,000-23,505	17,520-25,740	
Senior dental officer	23,505-31,785	25,740-34,800	
Community dental staff	15,925-23,190	17,440-25,405	
Dental health trainee	15,925-23,190	17,440-25,405	
Asst district dental officer	26,010-33,590	28,480-36,780	
Public health medicine staff	15,925-23,190	17,440-25,405	
Trainee	32,520-41,960	35,930-46,390	
Consultant	16,790-23,335	18,380-25,555	
Clinical medical officer	23,945-34,375	26,225-37,635	
Senior clinical medical officer			
Nurses			
Student nurse/midwife	5,800-6,750	6,440-7,450	
Pupil nurse	5,800-6,750	6,440-7,450	
RGN/RSCN 4-year course	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
RGN/RSCN 4-year course	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade A	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade B	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade C	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade D	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade E	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade F	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade G	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade H	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	
Grade I	6,800-7,750	7,440-8,450	

ARMY PAY			
Rank	Apr '90 £	Apr '91 £	
Field Marshal	95,750	104,750	
General	77,000	84,250	
Leutnant General	55,300	60,600	
Major General	47,300	53,000	
Brigadier	42,358	50,003	
Colonel	39,964	45,051	
Leutnant Colonel	33,650	38,650	
Major	26,685	29,899	
Captain	20,542	23,007	
Leutnant	15,345	17,191	
2nd Lieutenant	10,548	11,783	
Officer Cadet	7,405	8,257	
Warrant Officer Class 1, Band 5	15,940	18,977	
Warrant Officer Class 2, Band 5	15,972	17,894	
Staff Sergeant, Band 5	15,027	18,632	
Sergeant, Band 5	14,285	16,002	
Corporal 1, Band 2	13,122	14,599	
Lance Corporal 1, Band 2	11,552	12,942	
Private 1, Band 2	10,136	11,445	
Private IV, Band 1	6,855	7,455	

SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS			
Post	1990-91 £	1991-92 £	
Sir Robin Butler (Head of Civil Service and Cabinet Secretary)	95,750	104,750	
Sir Peter Middleton (Permanent Secretary, Treasury)	89,500	96,000	
Permanent Secretary (Grade 1)	77,000	84,250	
Permanent Secretary (Grade 1A)	70,750	77,500	
Deputy Secretary (Grade 2)	54,900-64,500	60,100-70,400	
Under Secretary (Grade 3)	45,000-52,100	49,300-57,000	
London	43,800-50,900	48,000-55,700	
outside London			

*Excludes London allowance of £2,000 which contains in payment to Grade 3s (two star officers in the armed forces receive London pay and Group 7 of the judicial salary structure receive London weighting).

TEACHERS' PAY			
Post	1990-91 £	1991-92 £	
Class teacher	9,000-16,002	10,404-17,522	
Deputy head	13,300-29,100	20,633-33,940	
Head teacher	18,900-40,002	21,310-46,678	

Top earners angry at phased awards

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY increases for 2,040 senior public servants covered by the top salaries review body are likely to be considerably higher next year than even the 9.5 per cent rises awarded yesterday which the government reduced by staging them over eight months.

The pay group, chaired by Sir David Nickson, a former president of the CBI, criticised the government's decision to stage its 1990 award of increases of 7 per cent, and said members would be angered by the staging of the latest award.

The group's report makes clear that it has told the government that it intends to undertake a "wide-ranging and fundamental review" of pay levels of the employees it covers — senior armed forces officers, the top layer of Whitehall civil servants, and the judiciary.

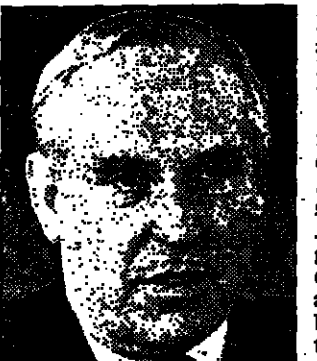
Given that this year's report

shows that senior public servants' pay is generally less than half the earnings of comparable figures in the private sector, next year's report is likely to recommend large increases which the government will find very difficult to accept, even after the discount the pay body makes in its calculations for the different levels of risk in the public and private sectors.

The pay body said that the undisclosed discount had now become too large, and said the extent to which it should be reduced would be the central issue in the review for next year's recommendations.

As well as civil servants' and senior officers' pay (see table), the report covers pay for the judiciary. Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, who is presently paid £95,750, will see his pay rise to £104,750, while the pay of Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, will increase from £88,500 to £97,000. The pay of High Court judges will go up from £77,000 to £84,250.

The findings of this year's report were cautiously welcomed by the First Division Association, the union representing senior civil servants. Jonathan Baume, its assistant general secretary, said, however, that the staging of the award was disgraceful, partly because one of its effects was to permanently reduce the pensions of individuals who had given a lifetime of public service.



Sir David: critical of government pay decision

Doctors resentful of staging

NURSES' and doctors' leaders reacted angrily yesterday to their pay awards being staged for the fourth year running, effectively reducing average rises to 8.4 per cent (Jill Sherman writes).

The government is allocating an extra £250 million to meet the cost of the award but health authorities will have to contribute £35 million. Although the government has accepted the review bodies' recommendations in full, the awards will be phased over eight months.

All health staff covered by the pay review body groups, including professions allied to medicine, will get at least 7.5 per cent from April 1 and at least a further 2 per cent from December 1. The total average increase for nurses is 9.5 per cent. However, students and nursing auxiliaries will get up to 9 per cent from April 1, plus 2 per cent from December.

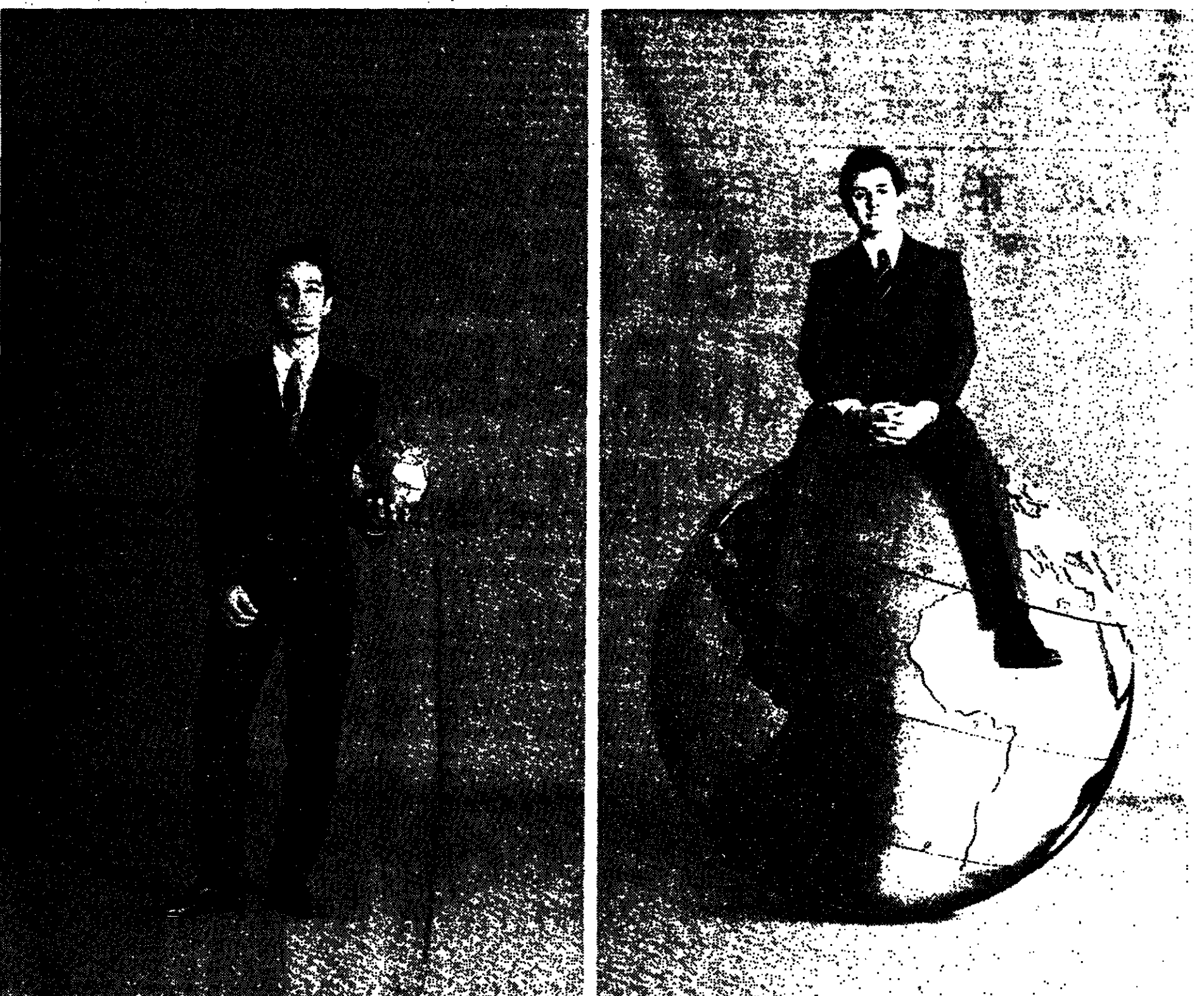
The doctors' and dentists' review body recommended basic increases of 11 per cent for dentists, 10.5 per cent for consultants, and 9.5 per cent for other hospital doctors and GPs. The government has decided instead to give all groups 7.5 per cent from April.

Teachers face wait for full rise

TEACHERS will have their pay rise phased for a second year, waiting until December for the full 9.5 per cent increase recommended by the government's advisory committee (John O'Leary writes).

Head teachers and deputies will get 3.25 per cent more than classroom teachers. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said he was accepting the recommendations of the committee in full, increasing the value of incentive allowances by almost a third and giving more local discretion on the pay of heads and deputies as well as raising basic pay. Phasing will mean that the increase for classroom teachers amounts to less than 8.5 per cent over the full year, however. Their increase from April 1 will be 7.5 per cent.

Mr Clarke said that his decision to phase the increase reflected the economic situation and falling pay expectations elsewhere. Teachers' unions said the award would not cover inflation or attract more talent into the profession. The National Association of Head Teachers expressed bitter disappointment at the devaluation of the award through phasing.



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British TELECOM

Cash freeze could put profitable BR line back in red

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail's only profitable passenger rail network could slide back into a loss unless a proposed £750 million investment programme goes ahead as planned, a senior rail official has said.

During a confidential briefing, John Prideaux, InterCity's managing director, told MPs last week that ageing west coast main line rolling stock would cease to attract sufficient customers to maintain the line's profitability in five to ten years' time.

Outlining InterCity's strategy for upgrading the west coast rail link, Dr Prideaux told MPs that he regarded the £750 million investment programme as InterCity's top priority, although he gave a warning that the scheme would have to compete with other vital investment programmes, including the electrification of the Midlands main line and the high speed Channel tunnel rail link.

The west coast main line, which runs between London and Glasgow, carries an estimated 16 million passengers a year, accounts for a third of InterCity's revenue, and plays a pivotal role in helping to generate the £46.4 million operating surplus recorded by InterCity in 1989-90.

The west coast route is,



however, confronted by increased competition from the multi-billion pound improvements planned for the national motorway network, and the gradual expansion of the regional airports. Pending final approval of the scheme, InterCity is hoping to invite tenders for the proposed InterCity 250 trains, capable of travelling at up to 155mph, within the next few weeks.

The upgrading of the west coast main line, which includes new rolling stock, track improvements and resignalling work, would reduce travelling times between London and Manchester by 20 minutes to 110 minutes. Comparable savings would also be made on journey times from London to Liverpool, Preston, Carlisle, and Glasgow.

Dr Prideaux told MPs that

the alternative of building a completely new line would cost over £3 billion, take 15 years to complete, would involve considerable environmental disruption and could not be justified while the government demanded that all British Rail investment make an 8 per cent profit.

Dr Prideaux said that InterCity's objective was to provide its customers with "the best InterCity train in the world". InterCity already provided the third fastest rail service in the world after Japan and France, neither of which gave customers the greater intensity of service offered by InterCity, he said.

Dr Prideaux told MPs, however, that if InterCity provided its customers with a fast, efficient, reliable and comfortable service, there was no reason why they should not expect to pay the higher fares commanded by air travel. In Japan, for example, high class rail travel cost up to one third more than air travel.

Dr Prideaux said that he was eager to discover how many business travellers preferred four hours interrupted travel on a train from London to Glasgow, for example, compared to the alternative by air which involved access to and from airports, processing at terminals, and comparatively little work time during the flight.



Musical cheer: MP Winston Churchill tackling the trombone yesterday outside the palace of Westminster at the launch of a Jazz for Romania appeal. A 12-hour free concert, at the Regent Palace hotel, Piccadilly Circus, next Wednesday, aims to raise money for the

Parliamentary Appeal for Romanian Children. Those taking part include Larry Adler, Kenny Ball, Humphrey Lyttelton, the Roy Budd Trio, Alan Price, Helen Shapiro and Anita Harris. Pledges of money can be made from today on 0800 400 457.

Embattled Equity seeks new head to fight for a future

The actors' union today closes nominations for its new general secretary. Simon Tait considers the problems he will be up against

WHEN Peter Plouviez became general secretary of Equity 16 years ago, it had 10,000 members. Now there are 46,000 but the future of the actors' union has never looked less sure.

"The figures might look like a success story, but how successful is a union that still has 80 per cent unemployment in the profession it represents?" Mr Plouviez asked.

Acting became even more precarious for newcomers when Equity failed to win the battle with the Inland Revenue over the self-employed status of actors - which had kept many of them solvent. Mr Plouviez believes that the change will alter the shape of British theatre.

He retires in July and his successor will be elected over the next two months. Nominations close today and on Tuesday Ian McGarry, his assistant general secretary, is expected to be named as the Equity Council nomination. Mr McGarry's main opponents are likely to be David Hargreaves, a supporter of the Marxist party and now a member of the Equity Council, and Tony McEvoy, a Workers' Revolutionary Party member.

Both actors challenged Mr Plouviez in the first election of an Equity general secretary 18 months ago, forced by new trades union legislation. A fourth candidate may be a variety performer nominated as Ivan Inversion.

Ian Flintoff, an actor and writer, had been widely expected to stand in the election but will not. "I don't believe the job should be political as this process is bound to make it," he said. "I think it is a mistake for Equity to have been trapped into having to have an election."

"Equity needs to have a higher profile, to be commenting in public on everything to do with the profession. If an actor is elected the credibility will disappear."

Since Mr Plouviez's appointment in 1975, the union has grown from little more than a professional association to, it believes, a vital arbiter of quality on

whose judgment employers rely.

The nature of British acting has changed since 1975, principally because of television advertising. "It was a useful earner to take on when one wasn't busy and to provide some ballast while concentrating on a stage career," Mr McGarry said. "Now actors can make careers out of television advertising, turning down other less lucrative work, and the quality of the product has improved out of all recognition."

So important has television work become, particularly advertisements, that Mr Plouviez believes the fragmentation of broadcasting presents the greatest challenge to Equity and to the acting profession. "We have to fight back before people forget what British broadcasting was like and how good it could be," he said. "Unless we get a grip, there will be a free-for-all and it will be hard to see the point of Equity other than as a sort of club for old actors."

Without an Equity deal on repeat fees, television advertisers were threatening to make their commercials with foreign actors or without professionals at all. After a period of deadlock, Equity and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising are renegotiating their 1988 agreement on repeat fees for actors in television commercials which expired on January 11: the advertisers are afraid of spiralling costs with repeats multiplying on satellite and cable television, while Equity believes that actors could be paid less under the flat fee system the institute wants.



Plouviez: "union is facing its greatest challenge"

State to pay Welsh Opera debt

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

WELSH National Opera's £842,000 debt is to be repaid by the government to secure the company's future. Welsh Opera is also to get an extra £300,000 from the Arts Council in each of the next three financial years.

In December, the council rejected the company's request for a grant from the enhancement fund devised to help clients of high artistic quality with financial difficulties or with important projects. As a result, Welsh Opera said it would have to close this summer because it could not fulfil touring commitments.

Yesterday, in a written parliamentary reply, David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, said: "Wales has reason to be truly proud of this outstanding company. When the present financial crisis came to a head I decided that - wholly exceptionally - the WNO deserved help. It was important to rectify the company's underlying financial weakness."

Last week sources close to David Mellor, the chief secretary to the Treasury who, as arts minister, devised the enhancement fund, said he was unhappy about how the fund had been allocated, mentioning the plight of Welsh Opera. The new grant is to come from the Arts Council's touring fund and its reserves.

In a separate announcement, Anthony Everitt, secretary-general of the Arts Council, said that it approved of using a national lottery to benefit the arts provided it was run by the government or strictly controlled by it.

Meanwhile, Britain's first black theatre company to have its own base is to be the main beneficiary of a reallocation of funds originally earmarked for a scheme, now defunct, for a black arts centre. Talawa Theatre Company is to receive £319,000 to establish itself at the Jeanette Cochrane Theatre in Holborn, central London.

Pub photos may help to cut violence

Police in Gwynedd, Wales, are providing public house landlords with photographs of people convicted of drink-related violence so that they can identify and ban them.

Under the scheme, which has been approved by lawyers, landlords must undertake only to show the pictures to members of staff. They remain police property and must be returned after a ban. The scheme is an extension to a pubwatch scheme which has resulted in a 30 per cent fall in disorder caused by drink.

Prison death

An enquiry has begun into the death of Michael Jamieson, who was found hanged in his cell in the hospital wing of Full Sutton prison near York. Jamieson, aged 35, of east London, was jailed for life in 1981 for killing four pensioners.

Pollution fine

Express Dairy Foods, of Appleby, Cumbria, is to pay £113,000 in compensation to 11 claimants after an ammonia discharge into the Eden killed thousands of fish. The National Rivers Authority is to get £40,000 for restocking.

Mansion fire

A fire at Mar Lodge, the Highland mansion bought by John Kluge, an American billionaire, caused £1 million worth of damage yesterday. It was the second fire at the house within a week.

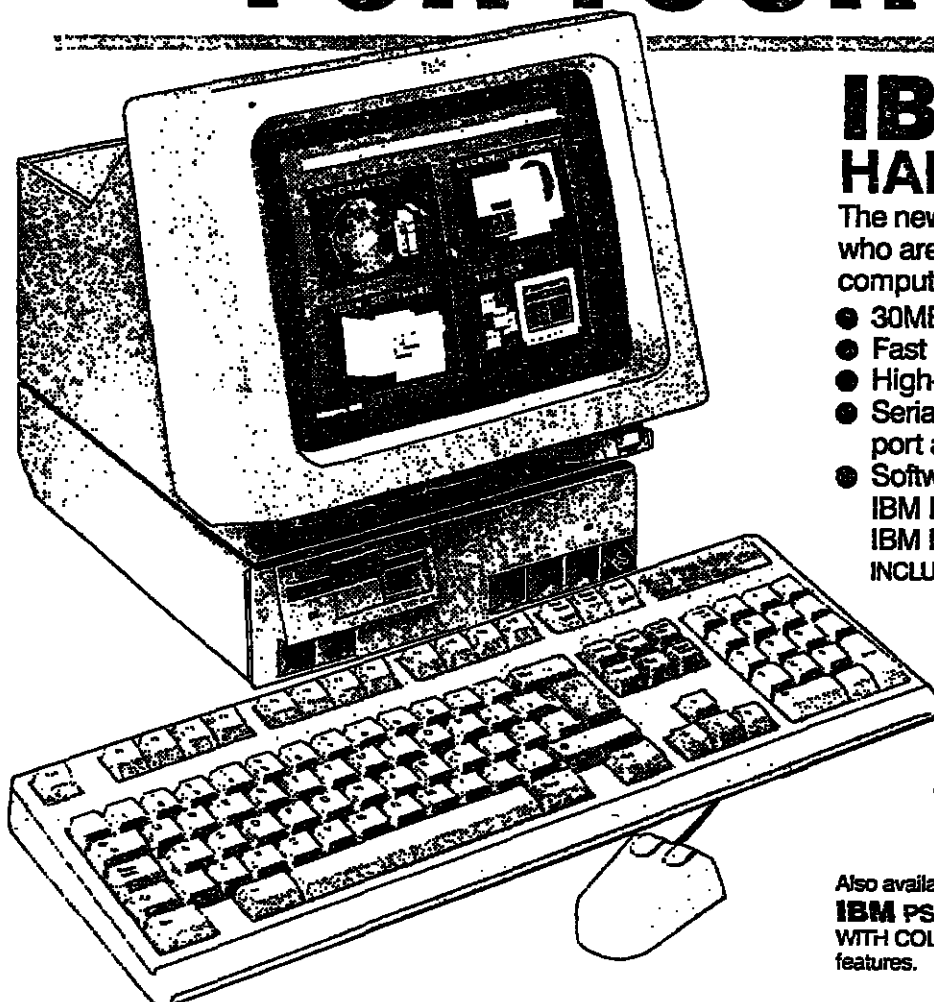
Cable car link

Blackpool council has agreed to a plan for a cable-car network in the south shore area of the resort linking car parks with the pleasure beach.

Eye tests failed

Almost half the 200 drivers who had their eyes tested by Nottinghamshire police had defective vision. Many could not judge speed and distances, while others were colourblind.

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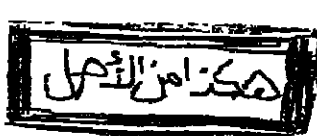
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Croatia awaits army move to seize minister of defence

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN ZAGREB AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

AFTER narrowly averting a head-on collision with the Yugoslav military last week, Croatia yesterday again braced itself for military intervention after refusing to hand over its defence minister for arrest.

The Yugoslav army was reported to be preparing to seize the minister, Martin Špegelj, last night after the expiry of a 24-hour ultimatum issued at 10pm on Wednesday. Four other Croatian activists had already been arrested earlier this week.

Mr Špegelj is accused of terrorism and ordering the massacre of Yugoslav army officers and their families in a blueprint for civil war.

The Yugoslav army's request for Mr Špegelj's detention was rejected by the Croatian authorities. The military prosecutor's office in Zagreb then gave the Croatian police 24 hours to carry out the order.

As defence minister of the democratically elected Croatian government, Mr Špegelj is also alleged to have illegally purchased arms from Hungary to equip Croatia's 20,000-strong militia.

Yesterday Croatia denounced the orders for Mr Špegelj's arrest as "an attack on Croatian sovereignty." Sources close to Mr Špegelj said that he had no intention of handing himself over

to the Yugoslav military and that he was spending the day in Slovenia conferring with politicians there. A Croatian government spokesman urged all Yugoslav's republics to ally themselves against "an assault on democracy."

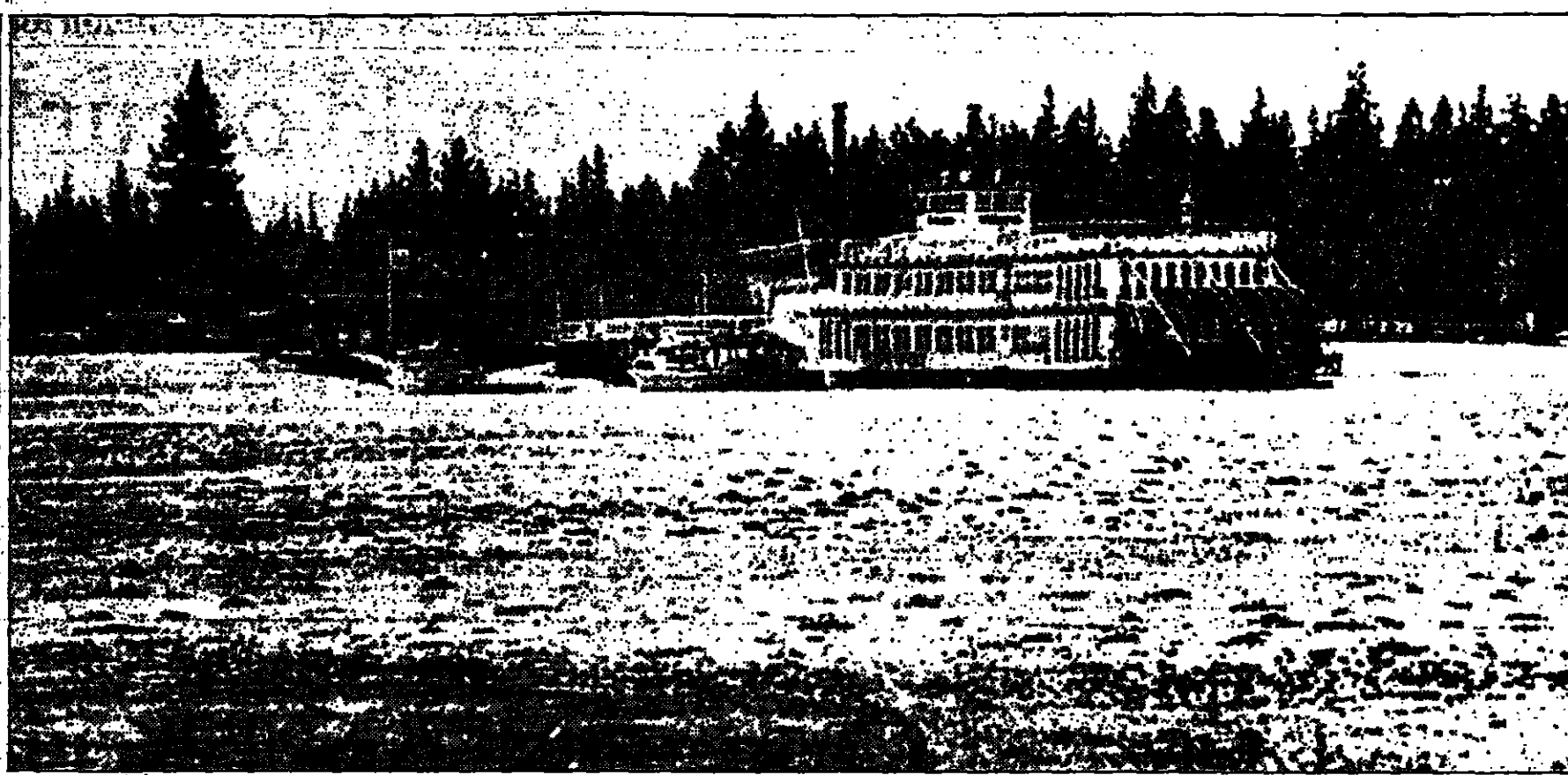
Outside key government buildings in Zagreb yesterday uniformed and plain-clothed militia men took up position. The Croatian National Defence Council said that Croatia would resist any attempts to seize Mr Špegelj.

The allegations against Mr Špegelj were aired in a television film made by the Yugoslav army and shown on Belgrade television last weekend. The film has been dismissed by most Croats as "total fabrication." In it, Mr Špegelj allegedly says: "Civil war cannot spare anyone."

Mr Špegelj, who was a former communist general, once commanded the all-important fifth region of Yugoslavia's army divisions. His links with the existing military are unclear. But it has become apparent that calls by the Croatian government for the resignation of the chief of the general staff, Blagoje Adžić, have angered the military.

Croatia and Slovenia meanwhile formally demanded the resignation of the Yugoslav defence minister, Veljko Kadijević, and of General Adžić. The Slovenian parliament met on Wednesday to renew its earlier demand for the ousting of General Kadijević, while the Croatian representative in the Yugoslav state presidency said that Croatia would insist on General Adžić's resignation.

The Slovenian parliament has accused the Yugoslav army of seeking to act as a political arbiter after obtaining a document, alleged to come from the Yugoslav army, which provides evidence of the encouragement the Yugoslav military establishment was deriving from the recent trends in the Soviet Union, and the repression in the Baltic states in particular.



Land-locked: the Tahoe Queen paddle steamer docking at South Lake Tahoe, California, after following a dredged channel near the receding shoreline. A drought has plagued the state for five years and the lake, bordering Nevada, has lost 270 billion gallons of water. Officials say reservoirs are less than a third full and water rationing has been imposed

Winnie Mandela guards jump bail

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

FOUR men due to appear in court on Monday with Winnie Mandela, charged with kidnapping and assault, have jumped bail and disappeared.

The four — Joseph Sithole, aged 18, Kaitira Cebokani, aged 22, Mpho Mabane, aged 19, and Sibo Siso Mabane, aged 19 — are all alleged to have been members of the so-called "Mandela United Football Club", which acted as Mrs Mandela's bodyguards.

The men were supposed to report weekly to police stations in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, but have not been seen since December, police said. The police had delayed announcing the disappearance until now because they had tried to catch the men. Arrest warrants have now been issued and rewards offered for information leading to their capture.

The trial follows the sentencing to death last May of Jerry Richardson, aged 44, for the murder of Stompie Seipei, aged 14. He and three other youths were allegedly abducted in Soweto in December 1988, taken to Mrs Mandela's home and assaulted. His body was discovered on waste ground. The judge at Richardson's trial found that Mrs Mandela was present during the assaults on the youths.

Nelson Mandela, who was then still in prison, ordered the disbandment of the "football club", and black leaders called on the community to distance themselves from Mrs Mandela. Since then she has been reinstated into the ANC hierarchy.

Russia urges Gorbachev to scrap army patrols

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

LESS than 12 hours before joint army and police patrols were due to start on the streets of Soviet cities, the parliament of the Russian Federation appealed to President Gorbachev to suspend the measure until its constitutionality had been reviewed.

The appeal was agreed at the end of a noisy two-hour debate during which liberal deputies condemned the planned patrols as a violation of the constitution, which would provoke more unrest than they would quell.

The official aim of the order is to reduce crime and make streets safe, but many liberals and reformists believe it also has a political purpose and will be used to restrict the activities of the political opposition and curb mass demonstrations.

Arguing yesterday against the patrols, Colonel Dmitri Volkogonov, the reform-minded military historian, said that he believed they presaged the imposition of the "Polish option" on the Soviet Union (the previous communist policy of cautious economic reform, under the cover of military control) and would delay real reforms by a decade.

Colonel Volkogonov has just been named consultant to the Russian parliament's new committee on defence and security.

During the debate, several deputies argued passionately that to have 18-year-old conscripts patrolling the streets with loaded weapons was asking for trouble. Police chiefs argued that patrolling should be left to the professional police, not to the army.

There were further objections, on constitutional grounds, from those who said that two central ministers had no right to mobilise troops. The constitutional ques-

tion gave rise to a protest statement by the Russian government on Tuesday, but the criticism was subsequently toned down after a presidential decree sanctioned the new patrols but stipulated that they should operate only within the law.

Opening the debate yesterday, Sergei Shakhrai, the chairman of the Russian parliament's legislative commission, proposed a request for a review by the Soviet Constitutional Review Commission, and an appeal to President Gorbachev to delay the introduction of the patrols until the commission had reported. These moves were approved.

Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation, hinted that unexpected developments were imminent in the next 24 hours. This was interpreted as meaning either that the long-feared price increases would come

into force at midnight, or that the Russian leader had already secured Mr Gorbachev's agreement to a suspension of the army and police patrols.

The order has been condemned by Moscow city council and by several Soviet republics. Georgia and Moldova say they will not comply with it.

Canada posting: Vadim Bakatin, the former Soviet interior minister, who was removed in November after a campaign by conservatives, may become the Soviet ambassador in Canada.

Since leaving office he has been tipped for a high post in Mr Gorbachev's restructured administration, and for a deputy premier post in the Russian Federation. Yesterday, however, Mr Yeltsin alluded to an ambassadorial post for the former minister, and unconfirmed reports suggest Canada.

Izvestia deputy banished to Spain

By MARY DEJEVSKY

THE reform-minded deputy editor of the Soviet government newspaper, *Izvestia*, has become an early victim of President Gorbachev's retreat from glasnost.

Igor Golembiovsky, who has worked for *Izvestia* for 20 years as a reporter, foreign correspondent and finally deputy editor, is being transferred to Spain as a correspondent again. He had been in charge of the day-to-day running of the paper, with sole responsibility for its foreign news pages.

Last year, Golembiovsky was elected editor-in-chief by the *Izvestia* staff, but the presidium of the Soviet parliament refused to ratify the choice, instead promoting Nikolai Yefimov, a full member of the party central committee.

Two weeks ago, Golembiovsky signed an open letter criticising President Gorbachev's silence over the violence in Lithuania. Yefimov reportedly delivered an ultimatum to the chairman of the Soviet parliament, Anatoli Lukyanov, saying either he or Golembiovsky would have to go.

Although the paper is officially described as the "organ of the soviets of people's deputies" (that is, of the elected councils and the Soviet parliament), there have been reports that Mr Lukyanov wants to make it the newspaper of the parliamentary presidium.

Earlier this week, a petition was circulated among deputies of the Supreme Soviet calling for Golembiovsky's dismissal. His effective exile, believed to be part of the wider power battle between sections of *Izvestia* staff and Mr Lukyanov, also reflects the growing encroachments on glasnost.

Delhi sends troops to Tamil Nadu

DELHI — The Indian government has rushed federal troops to Tamil Nadu state to quell violent mobs protesting against the imposition of direct rule and the disbanding of the provincial government.

The main opposition parties have called the decision shocking and demanded that Chandra Shekhar, the prime minister, and his two-month-old minority government resign for forcing out an elected administration.

Nine national and regional groups said in a joint statement: "We wish to say that this (sacking) is totally unacceptable and appeal to the democratic forces to see through this diabolical conspiracy and defeat it by all means."

Delhi dismissed the government of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party for allegedly failing to ensure law and order and letting Sri Lankan Tamil militants operate in the coastal state of 55 million people. Rajan Wijeeratne, Sri Lanka's defence minister, welcomed the action, saying it would help in Colombo's fight against Tamil guerrillas. (AFP)



Spegej: accused of planning massacre of officers

Divorce Italian style investigated by EC

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

AN ITALIAN man who claims he was obliged to divorce his German wife twice, once in each country, before being able to remarry may unwittingly have unearthed a legal minefield.

The complaint has prompted the European Commission, which has little say in civil law matters between European Community countries, to say it is investigating ways of resolving cross-border divorce disputes.

This could have far-reaching implications in European capitals, where divorce law is jealously guarded as part of national terri-

tory beyond the bounds of EC lawmakers.

Martin Bangemann, Germany's commissioner responsible for enforcing the Single European Act, said: "The commission is looking into whether and how a basis for removing such differences within the community can be found."

The Italian, an immigrant labourer living in Mulheim, claims that after separating from his German wife, the divorce was not recognised in Italy. He had to undergo fresh divorce proceedings before an Italian family court, at a cost of five million lire (£2,300), using an Italian lawyer. New papers had to be drawn up by a

registered Italian translator and authenticated by the Italian consulate, at a further cost of £100.

One expert on community law said that although the EC's wings are clipped, it could intervene in a divorce dispute "if additional divorce requirements impeded the free movement of people around the community". This implies that if a divorce suffered unnecessary delays, costs, anguish or paperwork in order to gain full recognition abroad, it could be a violation of EC law.

The commission is treading carefully, however. It knows that if it takes one step into the area of divorce law, it will be accused by national governments of trespass-

ing. It is hoping instead that Germany and Italy will fight it out between themselves.

This may be the case, as the root of the problem lies in Germany's persistent refusal to sign the Hague Convention on the recognition of divorces and legal separations, signed by several European countries in 1970.

Detlev Samland, a German European MP who has assumed responsibility for the case, says he urged the German justice ministry to sign the convention, but with no success. The case could be a chance for Brussels to spread its wings a little further in civil law.

Leading article, page 11

End of the beginning for Occhetto

FROM JANET STOBART IN ROME

THE lengthy metamorphosis of the Italian Communist party entered its final stages yesterday with the start of its last national congress, marking the death of the 70-year-old organisation and the birth of the left-wing Democrats.

The party has suffered a steady decline, with the loss of 100,000 card-carrying members over the past year. It polled only 26.6 per cent in the last general elections.

The party's turn towards more social democratic policies came almost simultaneously with the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989, when Achille Occhetto, the party secretary, announced a change of policies. Since then, criticism from within and outside the party has not helped repair its identity crisis.

Nevertheless, the party is still Italy's second largest parliamentary group, with 158 MPs, and still the largest European communist party. However, in their search for new goals and new voters, the 1,500 or so communist delegates attending the four-day congress in the Adriatic seaside resort of Rimini are presenting a less than united front behind Signor Occhetto.



Occhetto: leading Italian communists to fresh goals

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

War focuses attention on the killings at home

WHILE the United States is transfixed by the Gulf, New Yorkers have been wondering whether the country's new-found martial resolve might be applied to the war raging on the streets. Since the Middle East offensive started, more than 75 New Yorkers have been shot dead or otherwise murdered, several times the American casualty figure so far reported in the Gulf.

In one of the more chilling cases, a well-known Haitian actress was killed by a mugger as she strolled through Greenwich Village at lunchtime on Monday.

By wide consensus, the Vietnam syndrome — a sense of impotence — has been afflicting New York law enforcement. A man arrested in the act of murdering a passenger on a subway train last week had more than a dozen convictions for violent robbery and burglary in the past ten years, yet had served only one brief jail sentence. Drawing a moral from the case, Gordon Crovitz, a legal commentator, suggested it was time

to apply the lessons of Iraq. "The American way to fight in Iraq could have unforeseeable consequences, perhaps including a rediscovered will to fight back at home as well."

In the biggest battleground — the drug war — the generals are insisting that they have stemmed the tide of cocaine. As anecdotal proof that they have the dealers on the defensive, the New York police are pointing to a shift in their motoring tastes. Until recently, dealers used to cruise flamboyantly about the city in Mercedes, BMWs and luxurious jeeps, usually black. Now their choice is said to be far more modest Nissans and Hondas.

And, as evidence of the desperation of the smugglers, the police have announced their most unusual cocaine seizure. Divers found 366lb of the drug, worth \$5 million (£2.6 million), hidden in the exterior rubber compartment of a visiting oil tanker. They also found two shivering and lice-infested Colombians who had survived five stormy days in a 10ft air



pocket under the water in the machinery.

Tough opposition in the drug business is also apparently driving some operators to other ventures. Police have just closed an outfit called US Soldiers of the East Support Group, which was assiduously advertising Operation Desert Storm bracelets "in exchange for \$20 donations" to help the families of service men.

Prosecutors found that no bracelets were delivered by the Florida-based company and its boss was a wanted drug-dealer.

If you notice any British cows wearing backpacks over the next few months, the explanation may be found at the University of Washington State. The government Environmental Protection Agency has given researchers a \$70,000 grant to find out how much belching cows contribute to global warming. Hundreds of cattle in ten countries will be fitted with a contraption connected to a gas monitor attached near the beast's mouth.

Behind the scheme lies a lawsuit. The Washington-based Foundation on Economic Trends is suing the agriculture department for failing to measure how much methane is released into the atmosphere by bovine belching and flatulence. The foundation insists that up to 15 per cent of atmospheric methane comes from the animals. Scientists are now working on a device to measure the other end of the problem.

Real war is also helping to make times harder for the country's celluloid heroes. Two of the biggest film makers — Walt Disney and Warner — have made it known over the past week that they want to get away from blockbusters and devote their efforts to smaller-scale films based on good stories. "We should now look long and hard at the blockbuster business and get out of it," said Jeffrey Katzenberg, chairman of Walt Disney Studios, in a widely leaked internal memorandum. "We have slowly drifted away from our original vision of how to run our movie business," he said.

Dick Tracy had proved the final straw for Disney, a film that although profitable had drained the studio of its resources. A string of expensive flops has convinced the money men of New York and Hollywood that small may again be best in the film business. Warner, the most traditional of the big studios told *Variety* this week that it too wanted to retreat from "high-profile, star-driven" material.

Janet Daley sees no prospect of the EC members achieving a common foreign policy

Gulf split that could occur again

The first casualty of Europe's disunity over the Gulf War is the grandiose ideal of European political union. John Major is busy distancing himself from it, but his supporters are making concerted efforts to keep it alive. In a careful reply to a Radio 4 interviewer, the Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, said a common foreign policy was still a real possibility.

Sir David Steel has said it is absurd to judge the European capacity for union on the basis of the Gulf fiasco since as yet we have neither political union nor mechanisms for agreeing foreign policy, the present disarray is no test at all. George Robertson, a Labour spokesman on foreign affairs, told me this week that Labour's enthusiasm for European union was undiminished by the acrimony of the past fortnight.

To any but the true believer, this faith in a coherent united stance surviving conflicting economic interests and the vagaries of

member states' internal politics looks less and less credible. What becomes of the prospect of political union if the fundamental requirement of a common foreign policy proves unworkable?

American commentators have little compunction about writing off a united Europe as an international force. William Pfaff wrote last week in *The International Herald Tribune*: "...a by-blow of the war in the Gulf has been the demolition of the idea that there is a 'Europe' capable of producing a coherent foreign policy." And in the same paper, Giles Merritt comments: "The Gulf crisis has revealed that the whole process of European political integration has feet of

clay. For all the brave talk of union, the Community can apparently sustain only fair weather 'common' foreign policies."

This is more than idle punditry. America has had a passionate interest in the future of European union, for it revolved around its own interests. A united Europe offered not only another western superpower to help in arbitrating the post-cold war settlement; it also meant a secure base to hold the new Germany in political harness, and, perhaps most important of all, it promised a possible alternative to the American defence commitment in western Europe.

The European civil servants engaged on proposals for the

intergovernmental conference on political union are working to their original deadline, but there is increasingly an air of unreality about these consultations, which seem to be proceeding on autopilot while the vessels' captains are in lifeboats, paddling away in different directions.

Assuming that EC governments do find forms of words with which to resuscitate the old ideal, the distaste that has been stirred among the British public is going to make necessary some novel presentation. Even the quality press has engaged in name-calling over the past week, depicting the Germans as bloated plutocrats who have decided that it is

nicer to make money than war.

And the impasse will not end with the Gulf war. Its aftermath is likely to be at least as laden with recrimination. While Britain will surely be entitled to a say in any decisions on the post-war settlement, many of our EC partners, having disgraced themselves in American eyes, may find themselves frozen out. The scope for estrangement stretches far into the future.

Unlike Jacques Delors, who is frankly disappointed by the collapse of European unity over the Gulf, unreconstructed EC optimists on the left seem unworried about the tendency not just to discord but to the self-seeking parochialism that has surfaced

over the past weeks. What has emerged is not so much fraternal conscience as political expediency for home consumption, and, on the world stage, corporate capitalism of the most self-preserving kind. It is not necessary to go in for national character assassination to see a pattern in the obstinacy that undermined the Gatt talks and the pusillanimity of the Belgians and French over the war.

What must the fledgling East European democracies make of the EC's apparent willingness to plunge the world into a trade war without a thought for the repercussions on their fragile new capitalist economies?

In the special case of the

Germans, a sympathetic account of their vacillation can encompass guilt about the past and their obsessive concern with the political and economic cost of reunification. But even this rationalisation seems to be a point against workable union. If Germany's preoccupations can be seen as a legitimate apology for its position on the Gulf, they are also a genuine obstacle to a common foreign policy. To state the obvious: member countries have different historical problems, which cannot be conflated into any but the most anodyne foreign-policy positions.

When Britain was engrossed in the debate on whether or not to enter the common market, one of the most fervent arguments against was that the Community was bound to degenerate into an ineffectual bureaucratic nightmare on the one hand and a protectionist rich man's club on the other. The antagonists may now be feeling quietly vindicated.

Say Naples and defy

Philip Howard

War changes our language as well as our lives. The intense interest and publicity focused on an unfamiliar and unpronounceable part of the world affect our pronunciation and spelling. Politicians and broadcasters bring into bedrooms and living-rooms at every hour of the night and day names that before the war they had no reason to pronounce from one year to the next, and would have been unsure about tackling if called upon to do so.

The modern tendency for authenticity is to try to pronounce names as the natives do, rather than the bulldog-Brit, Churchillian and imperially arrogant way of turning them into English-sounding syllables. So the airwaves are congested with broad-brimmed British attempts at Arabic gutturals in names like Qatar, and many another place with an alarming rolled r, kh, dh, and q (disconcertingly without its attendant u).

An exonym is the technical term for a name given to a place by foreigners. So, London is an exonym of London, and Florence an exonym of Firenze. Many of these exonyms are old and honourable English names that go back ten centuries. But because of television, mass tourism and wishy-washy wettiness, exonyms are fading away, even though some are very old indeed. Now we try to pronounce place names as the natives do, to show off to the neighbours that we are cosmopolitan sophisticates and have taken a package tour to Ali-cante to see our lady of Elco with the best of the aspirant jet-setters.

Tracking changes in pronunciation is a tricky business, because they happen over a long period, and there are few records of how people spoke before the invention of the gramophone. But one record exists in poetry that rhymes and stresses. For example, the young lady of Prague, who was so deliciously vague, has lost her rhyme, because we have adopted the French pronunciation. Educated ladies at the beginning of the century played on the piano a sizzling piece called "The Battle of Prague" (the 1757 one, presumably), and they made it rhyme with Hague, and would have been startled to hear us now saying it in the Frenchified fashion. Prague is perhaps connected with the Czech *praziti*, a place where wood is

burned, or the Slavonic *prati*, to work (with nets in the river, they say).

It must have been about 80 years ago that English, alone among languages, and encouraged by American melting-pot pronunciation, began to give up its old exonyms. It is now almost universal to use the foreign pronunciation, or what it is romantically believed to be. A few places still keep their own style, such as Athens and Rome, and Paris is still usually given an English pronunciation. But other established exonyms, such as Lyons, and Leghorn (Livorno) have disappeared, and Majorca is fading. But whoever heard of Sir Henry Irving announcing that next season he would value the leading role in Bulwer-Lytton's *The Lady of Lyons*? Lyons, dear boy, Lyons.

No other language has followed our example in ditching exonyms. The French still refer to our south coast port of So-tong-tong, and they have their own crooning name for Edinburgh. Germans and Italians behave the same. The Italians preserve some charming variants, such as Londra, Parigi, Lione and Monaco di Beviara.

The same tendency is evident with personal names. The present king of Spain is called Juan-Carlos, pronounced with difficulty and bronchial Castilian aspiration. Why not the English form, King John-Charles? His predecessors had perfectly good English exonyms, Charles V and Philip II, to take two notorious examples.

I put it down to package holidays at Benidorm. Imagine the scorn of Byron and Shaw at hearing the legendary hero they both dealt with referred to as Don Hwan instead of Don Jewan. Skipping across the Pyrenees, imagine what Macaulay would have said if he learned that the man he called Lewis XIV, pronounced as though he were a Welsh rugby player, was now invariably called Louie and spelled Louis.

A strange exception is made in favour of His Holiness, by giving him his English exonym. He is always called Pope John-Paul II, not Giovanni-Paolo, or I suppose, if he is regarded as a Pole, Jan-Pavel. Bring back exonyms, I say, and forget all this fancy foreign pronunciation. It sounds absurd unless it is done by a proper linguist. And proper linguists are not employed to read out the news on television.

R.W. Johnson says all hopes are on de Klerk to speed South African reform

One year on, barriers in plenty to the post-apartheid dream

On February 2 last year, President de Klerk started the world with a dramatic speech at the opening of parliament in Cape Town: Nelson Mandela would be released, the African National Congress, the South African Communist party and the Pan-African Congress were to be legalised, and negotiations for a new, democratic constitution would shortly begin. As he rises to open parliament today, expectations of further dramatic announcements are high.

Throughout the year, Mr de Klerk has steadily rolled back his apartheid heritage. Unlike his predecessor, P.W. Botha, he has not hesitated in the face of conservative white resistance and has, extraordinarily, created an atmosphere in which it is quite calmly accepted that he will now announce the end of the basis of white privilege since 1913: the Group Areas Act and the Land Act. It has been a most impressive performance.

That said, the euphoria that enveloped South Africa after the February 2 speech has evaporated. Negotiations for a new constitution have still not begun. More than 1,000 blacks have died in the violence between the Zulu Inkatha movement and the ANC. On every side politics has become more territorial. Political competition between the black parties has so frequently been conducted with guns and knives as to create considerable pessimism about the chances for a post-apartheid democracy.

The ANC, on which such enormous hopes rested, has proved to be disorganised and incoherent. Law and order are under pressure in almost every part of the country, and the rocketing crime rate has become an obsessive concern among whites, causing many to emigrate or to retreat into heavily armed private laagers complete with dogs, high walls and electronically controlled gates. The turn away from apartheid is irreversible, but what lies ahead, hardly seems to be a promised land in anyone's terms.

These problems are exacerbated by a tight economic squeeze. For years the government tolerated high inflation because it reckoned that the political cost of deflation might be riot and rebellion. Now

that political concessions have been made, the government has decided it can afford to wring inflation out of the system with high interest rates and draconian public spending cuts. The result is zero growth, mounting unemployment (even among whites) and an ever-larger underclass.

Mr de Klerk faces many political obstacles. Negotiations with the ANC have become bogged down over the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles. The ANC insists that it will call off talks completely if both issues have not been settled by April 30. The government, sensitive to white fears about law and order, argues that it cannot release those with crimes of violence to their name, while the ANC wants a general amnesty to cover what it regards as acts of war in a just struggle.

The ANC wants its guerrilla exiles to return as heroes to jobs, houses and a secure future. Communist party radicals, such as Chris Hani, would like them to constitute a township army that would short-cut the road to democracy, deal with Inkatha and other political rivals, and provide a counterweight to the government's own forces. The government is determined to prevent any such

outcome and wants the guerrillas not only disarmed but Aids-tested, since they have been living in East African countries where the number of young men who are HIV positive is terrifyingly high.

In the end, some form of general amnesty is likely, perhaps with the government offering financial help to bring the guerrillas back and some prospect of their integration, on government terms, into the South African Defence Force. It is more or less impossible for this set of problems to be dealt with by April 30 unless Mr de Klerk decides to back right through the

Gordian knot in his speech today.

The temptation before Mr de Klerk has always been to seek a simple deal with the ANC, effectively forming a coalition government with it alone and squeezing out all other contenders. Now it is clear that he has opted decisively for a more open, multi-party model of negotiation, and it is this which forced the ANC towards this week's rapprochement with Chief Buthelesi, the Inkatha leader. The ANC would otherwise have had to meet him for the first time at the conference table, with Mr de Klerk presiding like a benevolent headmaster over naughty schoolboys. Mr Mandela's meeting with Chief Buthelesi in Durban on Tuesday has headed off that prospect, but

the ANC will now have to accept Inkatha as a legitimate alternative black voice in negotiations.

The probability remains, however, of an effective two-party deal within the context of a multi-party environment: that is, Mr de Klerk will hope to move the agenda along a central axis provided by his special understanding with Mr Mandela and the tacit assumption that the government and the ANC, alone of all the parties, have a veto power over any final outcome.

But this is to attribute to the ANC a steady coherence it may find hard to muster. For its internal divisions have led it to adopt a confused and contradictory stance. While maintaining a public rhetoric of demanding immediate change and denouncing the government for not moving fast enough, it has in practice been trying to slow down the negotiation process.

First it told the government that negotiations must wait upon the convening of an ANC conference (held last December), so that the movement could give itself an elected leadership at first. Then the ANC downgraded its conference to a consultative role, postponing the dreaded elections. The conference insisted on grassroots consultation and reiterated its demand for a constituent assembly, but a few weeks later Mr Mandela undercut this demand by calling for a multi-party constitutional conference - a proposal the ANC conference had not discussed.

Today the ANC launches a "mass action" to demand full democracy now, while simultaneously insisting that negotiations be put off until it has held a proper congress in June. Whether even that congress can be successfully held must be in question. The exile issue must be solved first. ANC factions are divided over elections, and the movement's organisational capacity is hardly famous.

A heavy burden thus rests on Mr de Klerk's shoulders as he rises to speak today. But in this lies his opportunity too, for a year on from February 2, he remains master of the game, the man to whom the whole country - including the ANC - looks to move ahead the process of change.

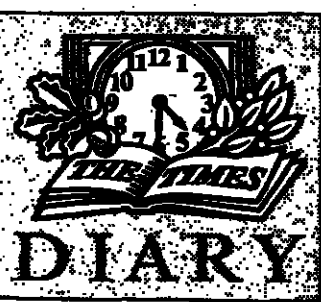
The author is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

Dodging the poll-tax flak

The prospect of Michael Heseltine donning his flak jacket once again is causing excited comment in Whitehall, not to mention among television camera crews and newspaper picture desks. The military earb he made famous during his confrontations with the Greenham peace camp women in the early 1980s could be dusted down if plans to fly the all-action environment secretary to the Gulf come to pass. His role would be in no way military, but to supervise Britain's contribution to the great oil slick clean-up.

The official line from his office is that Heseltine has no plans to go "at the moment". David McDonald, his press officer, says: "There have been no discussions with the Foreign Office and the proposition hasn't arisen." At a formal level that is undoubtedly the case but Whitehall sources say that behind the scenes the idea has been under active discussion and that the FO would allow Heseltine to visit the Gulf at Easter, provided the war was over by then. Heseltine is said to have favoured an earlier visit, but found the FO unresponsive.

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Any combat-jacketed British minister who visits the war zone immediately after the conflict is guaranteed plenty of photo opportunities aboard a Chieftain tank or looking concerned about oil-covered cormorants. For Heseltine it would represent a welcome relief from the poll tax.

Yesterday he was at an OECD meeting in Paris to discuss the clean-up operation. Ministerial visits to the region were not on the formal agenda. But if they were not discussed away from the official conference, politicians are not the creatures they used to be.

Friends of Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi-elect, did not recognise him when he returned to Britain this week for the publication of his 1990 *Rethinking*. Gone was the luxuriant beard he has worn for most of his adult life to be replaced by designer stubble of which George Best would be proud. Sacks had been on a study tour of Israel, to which he has now returned. The razor was taken to his beard to enable him to don his gas mask.

Scots wha high

Unlike Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep, the Scots have not been dissuaded from air travel by a little thing like a war. Figures published yesterday by BAA, formerly the British

Airports Authority, show a big drop in the number of airline passengers all over the rest of Britain. Airports in Europe and the rest of the world report a similar trend, while transatlantic flights have been particularly hard hit.

Only the intrepid Scots are not flying less; indeed, they are flying more. During the first week of hostilities, the number of passengers leaving Edinburgh and Aberdeen rose by 2.2 per cent and 9.9 per cent respectively.

Scotland the brave or Scotland the foolhardy? Neither, says Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrat MP whose seat of Ross, Cromarty and Skye leaves him little choice but to commute by air, simply Scotland the sensible. "My fellow countrymen realise that the possibility of a terrorist attack on London is fairly remote," he says. "As for the Americans, they are over-reacting ridiculously."

Vice-versa voting

Labour MPs have found an unlikely way to attack the government: by voting for a Tory MP as chairman of the newly established Commons select committee on health. Nicholas Winterston, MP for Macclesfield, was elected by five votes to four on Wednesday night with Labour supporting him and all Conservative members of the committee voting against. Before the meeting, government whips lobbied Labour whips as well as their own side in an attempt to defeat Winterston, with whom they have had a long-running battle.

Last year Tim Renton, then the chief whip, complained to Winterston's constituency about his "offensiveness" to ministers and drew attention to his voting record in the Commons. Winterston angrily defended himself, but the whips continued their campaign by trying to persuade the panel of

MPs which selects committee members to keep him off the health committee. They failed, and despite their whips' misgivings, Labour MPs, including two members of the far-left Campaign Group, were happy to support a Tory in order to rub salt into the government's wounds.

Winterston says of his Labour champions: "I have considerable respect for those who voted for me. They showed great courage."

See change

Robert Runcie, who retired as Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday, had a stern warning for his successor as he made his farewell at the Church of England Synod. George Carey, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who will succeed him in April, has some unfortunate predecessors to live down, Runcie pointed out. The only George previously to hold the post was George Abbot, who shot a gamekeeper in 1622, while the only other Bishop of Bath and Wells to have taken over the see of Canterbury was William Laud, who was executed.

Runcie admitted, however, that previous Roberts in the post had fared little better. One was sacked, one suspended and a third went off to become a cardinal in Rome, taking with him all of the church's records, which were never seen again. On that note, the most successful Robert ever to hold the post of archbishop bade farewell to his worldwide communion and wished George the best of luck.

What a romantic place Daving Street was under Mrs Thatcher. John Whittingdale, her former private secretary, is married to Cilla Murray, while Andrew Dunlop, who worked in the Number 10 policy unit at the same time as Whittingdale, has just become engaged to her sister, Lucia.

...and moreover ALAN COREN

Today is a very good day for me. It is also a very good day for partridge and pheasant, though they won't know that until tomorrow, which will be an even better day. For snipe, woodcock and capercaillie, of course, today is the even better day, since today is the tomorrow it was yesterday, which was still only a very good day, although naturally they didn't know it, then. Because it is only human beings who know that February 1 is the last day of the shooting season. Partridge and pheasant have no idea. Tell them the date is February 1, and they will look at you blankly, imagining it to be a day like any other. They will get up, they will peck at that ostensibly generous breakfast which has been chucked out for them every morning these four months past to ensure that they grow large enough to hit, and after they have been pecking for a while, people will start making a lot of noise behind them, banging sticks on trees and rattling rattles, and the pheasants and the partridge will attempt to get away from this for a bit of peace and quiet, only to discover that what they have got away to is a bit of war and noise. Since many of them will then fall down with holes in, never mind ending up in a dog's mouth, you can see why even those who survive will not twig that it is a very good day. They will not twig this until tomorrow, when they will get up and peck and wait to be driven out and shot at, only it will not happen, because it will be February 2.

I suppose it's just possible

that one or two of the older hands - wings, rather - might have, today, an inkling of the imminent Armistice, provided there is a woodcock or a capercaillie around, or even, if the terrain is propitious, a snipe.

That is because older pheasant or partridge, who have survived earlier seasons, may recognise in the snug struts of the now-unassailable woodcock its awareness that it is not being shot at, and remember what happened last year, i.e. the day after people stopped shooting at woodcock, they stopped shooting at pheasant and partridge. Quite why it should be that the open season for woodcock, capercaillie and snipe should end at midnight on January 31, but for pheasant and partridge it should end 24 hours later, I do not know, unless it is that the former have a smarter lawyer.

What I do know is that the end of the shooting season is almost as good a day for me as it is for the birds. They can stop dying, which means that I can stop eating them. This will be a great relief. I have eaten large numbers of them during the past four months, and I have not enjoyed a single one. That this has anything to do with animal politics may be quickly scotched (like the only woodcock I do enjoy) and despatched as the foul canard it is (and not only because within that phrase lurk two even worse jokes than the woodcock one), for I have nothing against the shooting of birds. I enjoy eating strangled ones, and since, if you are a bird, copping it on the wing after an

even-money dash for freedom must be preferable to gorging your last beneath the slaughterer's inescapable thumb, the eater of roast chicken cannot protest the greasy finger at the shooter of roast pheasant.

My complaint is simply that I prefer that chicken (and that goose, and that turkey, and that wild duck) to riddled game on a number of counts, the prime of which leads the rest by a furlong. For though I also prefer the flavour, the texture, and the unrun risk to expensive bridge-work from a mouthful of pellets, far more than any of these I prefer the absence of anecdote.

Over the past few years, shooting has become maniacally popular among the middle-aged townies who constitute my circle. I never see them at winter weekends any more, because they are all out shooting. I see them only during the evenings, when I have not only to eat what they have shot but to hear how they shot it, and where, and what they shot it with, and the cost of shooting it. I listen to all this politely, cautiously chewing my gutta-percha goblet, spitting shot into the receptacle provided, nodding and smiling uncomprehendingly at each arcane detail, and attempting to look as though I am getting full value from the hundred-quid wreckage in front of me.

But secretly wondering if Colonel Sanders has a branch on my way home. I like dining with him. Not only do you not break teeth, he doesn't sit down beside you and explain how he strangled your dinner.



Donald, his press officer, says: "There have been no discussions with the Foreign Office and the proposition hasn't arisen." At a formal level that is undoubtedly the case but Whitehall sources say that behind the scenes the idea has been under active discussion and that the FO would allow Heseltine to visit the Gulf at Easter, provided the war was over by then. Heseltine is said to have favoured an earlier visit, but found the FO unresponsive.



SADDAM'S FORCING MOVE

All wars are about politics. The Iraqi attack on Kuwait, militarily doomed as Saddam Hussein knew it must be, well illustrates the difficulties of a land war against a dictator for whom the desired mix of political and military outcomes is so different from that of the allies. What mattered to Saddam about this first ground battle was not how it ended, but how it would seem to the world.

Saddam is a low-risk military strategist but a high-risk political gambler. Against the loss of Iraq's oldest and most expendable tanks, he expected to set three immediate gains: raising morale among his own troops, reminding the Arab world that Iraq still has teeth, and demoralising the American people by sending them some dead bodies.

Baghdad Radio made the most of these gains yesterday, crowing that the 30-hour engagement had served warning that American troops would "leave the Arabian desert in body bags". The claimed capture of marines, female as well as male, and the death of a dozen in a separate frontier engagement, are worth several hundred Iraqi lives to Saddam. That much of democracy he understands.

But Saddam was also seeking military advantage. His target in Kuwait was the allied timetable for launching the ground offensive and the eventual location of "the mother of battles". With the frankness that sometimes characterises Iraqi pronouncements, the official Baath party newspaper, *al-Thawra*, asserted Iraq's determination to dictate "the opening phases of the battle, the date and place". Yes indeed.

Last night Saddam had six to seven divisions poised in western Kuwait for a fresh offensive across the border. The purpose of throwing them into battle would be to secure two objectives. The first is to hasten the land war. If the allies move before they are fully ready, Iraqi troops hope to inflict heavy casualties, once again enabling Saddam to claim victory even as he is forced to retreat.

THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR...

Britain's political culture has become almost inured to the truism that British prisons are a disgrace. They are too old and too many people are sent to them. Both faults are in the hands of ministers to cure and the first is the home secretary's direct responsibility. Each home secretary turns a blind eye to this aspect of his portfolio and prays that he will be moved before some crisis is reached. The present incumbent, Kenneth Baker, yesterday remained true to form on the subject of private prisons, sticking to his departmental brief that they are a good idea, one day.

The criminal justice bill now before Parliament contains a clause legalising the contracting out of remand centres to private management. An amendment, moved by Tory backbenchers, would have extended this to all types of jail. The government could have made this amendment its own, committing itself to widespread private management of Britain's prisons. Despite earlier hints, the minister responsible for prisons, Mrs Angela Rumbold, only promised to look at the arguments sympathetically. That apparently means no more than a tentative commitment in the next manifesto. Such is the backtracking on Thatcherism now life in Downing Street.

The fault with the amendment was not that it was politically risky, as Mr Baker and Mrs Rumbold believe, but that it did not go far enough. Experiments with private management have so far been limited to a single remand centre, Everthorpe on Humberside. This tinkering with the Home Office monopoly will not remedy the overcrowding, primitive sanitation and disorder documented by the prisons inspectorate, and shortly to be highlighted in the Woolf report on last year's jail riots.

Earlier plans to allow the private sector to compete against the Home Office for prison contracts were frozen when Douglas Hurd,

then home secretary, was presented with the results of a mock tendering exercise. The prison department's bid was, unsurprisingly, the lowest. When local councils, in collusion with their unions, played this game over tendering for local services, Mrs Thatcher's government rightly exoriated them. The environment secretary was then the same Mr Baker. But central government unions are treated with deference by ministers, none more so than the prison officers.

Mr Baker claims to be more committed to radical penal reform than either Mr Hurd or his successor, David Waddington. That surely means putting the fear of competition not only into the Home Office prisons directorate but into the Prison Officers' Association. Competition is the key to reform. But privatisation must be a serious objective, not just a ploy aimed at jolting the public sector.

Of course privately-run prisons must be accountable, but they could hardly be less so than prisons are today. Great is the fiction that nationalised industries are responsive to the public. Ministers will do nothing about overcrowding, except conceal it, since it is their fault. Only the unions have any interest in perpetuating the present system. A service that costs over £870 million a year and has consumed nearly £1 billion in capital since 1979 still fails to hold prisoners securely or humanely. Can the private sector do worse? Where the operation of jails is privatised, contracts should be for fixed periods, say of three to five years. They should set clear, legally-binding performance targets for prisoners' welfare, such as the number of hours they spend locked up. The only shortcoming of such a system is that the same Home Office would have to monitor it. But the iron law of privatisation obtains: government regulates services better when it does not also supply them.

DIVORCE, BRUSSELS-STYLE

Like marriage, divorce is a culturally specific institution. Since the collapse of the consensus based on Roman and canon law in the Middle Ages, no attempt to codify civil law, including that on divorce, for the whole of Europe has succeeded. The European Community has wisely left divorce law to evolve in line with religious attitudes and matrimonial custom in each country.

Now the European Commission has cast caution to the winds. National divorce laws, says the senior German commissioner, Martin Bangemann, may be a barrier to free movement and an occasion for discrimination at work. If EC states refuse to recognize divorces granted abroad, and instead impose their own legal requirements on the estranged partners and their children, individuals may suffer disadvantages that could influence their choice of domicile.

Such conflicts, which mainly affect people who marry citizens from another Community country, are likely to multiply as borders lose their significance. This is Herr Bangemann's ostensible justification for buying his bureaucrats with what might appear an obviously national sphere of law, in which the principle of subsidiarity should reign supreme. Is it his real reason?

As long as Herr Bangemann stays within his brief of promoting the internal market, his interest in divorce should remain peripheral. The commissioner himself has not yet suggested that Community law should encroach on this sensitive branch of social policy. But the extension of EC competence beyond the economic and into the social realm is proceeding so fast that a directive to promote the convergence of family law may well find itself on the agenda of a Community summit before long.

Stranger things have happened in the cause of giving the Community a "social dimension".

Is there a case for Parliament to incorporate a European dimension into any reform of the 1969 Act? The Law Commission, whose report on the grounds for divorce was debated in the House of Lords yesterday, recommends no such thing. The report proposes to reverse the present procedure whereby the consequences of divorce, particularly for the children, are often dealt with only after a decree has been granted. The parties would be encouraged to agree on custody and access before they could obtain a divorce.

Whether or not these ideas are eventually incorporated into British law, the sheer complexity of seeking "harmonisation", let alone uniformity, across the Community is apparent. Some countries are only just approaching the liberalisation which occurred in Britain two decades ago. Britain is moving towards a more mature view, which will oblige couples to think first and foremost of the consequences of divorce for their children. In the matter of divorce, Europe already has not so much a two-speed Community as a 12-speed one.

In view of this, Herr Bangemann should limit his investigations to specific abuses. These might include the mistreatment of the children of failed cross-national marriages, who suffer most in divorce. He should not waste his time in the vain quest to harmonise 12 very different legal frameworks for divorce. Such utopian legislative schemes are the fatal flaw of the Social Charter. Because traditions differ so much, mutual recognition of divorce procedures is the most that Brussels should aim for.

Mental stress at the battle front

From Ms L. E. Sayce

Sir, British hospitals have been asked to make provision for 7,500 Gulf casualties. But studies of previous conflicts suggest that the psychological problems triggered by war — consecutively described as shell shock, battle fatigue and post-traumatic stress disorder — affect at least 20 and up to 60 per cent of combat veterans. If only 20 per cent of the 33,000 British forces in the Gulf are affected, we could expect over 6,600 people to experience the debilitating symptoms of severe apprehension, guilt, despair and trembling.

The practice of psychiatry has frequently been radically altered by war — but not quickly enough to benefit the psychological casualties of the war in question. The huge incidence of shell shock in World War I alerted psychiatrists to the need for non-compulsory, and often non-hospital, treatment: the result, but not until 1930, was the Mental Treatment Act which allowed for the first time for voluntary admission to mental hospital and encouraged a gradual extension of out-patient facilities.

Experimental therapeutic work in World War II led to the development in the 1950s of therapeutic communities. After Vietnam, advice centres for veterans were established only in 1979, with little support from a nation intent on forgetting recent defeat.

Without swift support and counselling, the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder are aggravated over time. Joel Brenne and Erwin Parson (*Vietnam Veterans: The Road to Recovery*, Plenum Press, 1985) state that at least 800,000 of the 3,780,000 who served in the Vietnam war were subsequently in need of counselling for post-traumatic symptoms. Yet the lessons of past procrastination have not been learnt. The long-term psychological plight of all the Falklands veterans is not systematically monitored, and the commitment so far demonstrated to counselling for Gulf forces falls far short of the prospective need.

A co-ordinated strategy between specialist agencies should be sponsored by the Department of Health now, if we are not again to find ourselves implementing the necessary change 10 or 20 years too late. Yours faithfully, LIZ SAYCE (Policy Director), National Association for Mental Health (Mind), 22 Harley Street, W1, January 31.

Scud attacks

From Professor Geoffrey Alderman

Sir, The government of Jordan may indeed be unable to prevent the passage over its territory by Iraqi missiles en route to Israel. But if King Hussein were a man of principle he would condemn such violations none the less. Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY ALDERMAN, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Department of History, Egham Hill, Surrey, January 27.

Council budget

From Mr John P. Sheridan and Mr Ian Elliott

Sir, The Adur District Council attack on West Sussex County Council's budget plans (reports, January 31 and later editions, January 30) is astonishing since the district council has only itself to blame for the charge it will now be imposing on the local chargepayers in its area. In the current year Adur is spending more than double its government target, thereby adding a "surcharge" of £73 per chargepayer in a county where charges are generally amongst the lowest in the country.

My committee is recommending to the WSCC a budget 8.1 per cent below the government's target and which will produce a saving of £58 per chargepayer, a sum which Adur should be passing on to the benefit

Transport safety

From Professor Peter G. Moore

Sir, Sir Frederick Warner (January 17) correctly points out the very different risks of death from travelling by train or by car. He deplores the difficulty in changing public perceptions of these risks.

A major contributory factor to the difference in these risks is the attitude of the public towards voluntary as opposed to involuntary risks. Individuals demand stringent safety regulations for involuntary risks (e.g., travel by train or by airplane, the operation of nuclear plants, working on North Sea rigs, etc.) However, with voluntary risks (such as travel by car, smoking, skiing etc.) the individual believes

North Korea venue

From Dr Michael Clark, MP for Rochford (Conservative)

Sir, As your Diary correctly states (January 29), the Inter-Parliamentary Union was founded to unite representatives of parliaments around the world.

It is for precisely this reason that the British group supports the international decision, taken at the 84th IPU conference last October, that North Korea is an appropriate venue for the 35th conference. Membership of the IPU is open to all countries with an elected assembly.

The Gulf and goal of European union

From the Secretary of the Bruges Group

Sir, The letters today (January 29) demonstrate that there are those who would go to almost any lengths to justify the goal of European political union. It is being suggested, with increasing conviction, that Europe's failure to act decisively over the Gulf is due to the lack of "common foreign instruments" (a common foreign policy) in the EC.

This is a most astonishing argument to advance, and it should gain no currency whatever. Did the Americans ask us to enter into a political union before we joined them in the international force to uphold United Nations resolutions?

It should be obvious to all that if about 80 per cent of the German population is totally opposed to this war, despite the fact that without a war they would still be living under the regime created by Adolf Hitler — this position can never be reconciled to the vast majority in Britain who support John Major and his government, no matter how many political instruments Europe cares to propose.

"Willing and active co-operation between sovereign states" should be more than sufficient to engineer European unity in the defence of international law and order and the free supply of oil — which other countries in the EC need far more than Britain.

The failure of Europe's existing political co-operation procedures — evidenced in the worst instance by Belgium's craven refusal even to sell ammunition to British forces in the Gulf — can only pose some very awkward problems for Britain's future deliberations with the Community.

Yours sincerely, PATRICK ROBERTSON, Secretary, The Bruges Group, Suite 102, Whitehall Court, Westminster, SW1.

Tactics and casualties

From Group Captain D. A. P. Saunders-Davies (ret'd)

Sir, Many commentators appear to believe, in spite of repeated warnings by the military commanders on the spot and political leaders, that a war against a major military power can be won in ten days and without casualties. When these desirable but illusory objectives are not achieved the instant experts, often unhampered by any significant knowledge or experience of defence matters, criticise the judgment of commanders, the strategy, the tactics and the equipment. This serves only to undermine the confidence of the public in the conduct of operations without any basis in reality.

The Tornado and its employment have been subjected to this and now the Patriot missile system. Two or three scuds out of about 20 fired penetrate the defences and a reporter appears on television to say that this "must raise questions about the effectiveness of the Patriot system". In fact the system has achieved a kill-rate approaching 90 per cent which, far from raising

ever, has been given to the near-paralysis that has gripped EC and general western foreign policy actions and goals since the crisis began. Such inactivity may come back to haunt the West long after Saddam Hussein is laid to rest in the hall of failed dictators.

The feeble response in Washington and Brussels to the invasion of three sovereign (Baltic) states, for that is how history must judge recent Soviet action, under cover of events in Kuwait, has significantly damaged both the hope of a new European order based on respect for self-determination of peoples, as well as the infant reform process under way inside the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile in South Africa, after 5,000 deaths and a seemingly unstoppable spiral of inter-community violence, the two major black leaders, Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthe, have finally met to try to end this unacceptable level of bloodshed (report, January 30); an event crucial to the whole future of mineral-rich sub-Saharan Africa which until recently has been all but ignored in the West.

Whilst laying to rest one tyrant, the West must be aware that it may be allowing many others to rise.

Yours faithfully, MARC GORDON (Executive Director), International Freedom Foundation, Suite 500, Chesham House, 130 Regent Street, W1, January 30.

From Dr Alan Sked

Sir, The Germans are to be thanked for one thing at least. Their policy on the Gulf has at last resolved the debate over national sovereignty. We now know that (a) it exists, (b) it is not a thing of the past, and (c) it does not have to be "pooled". Yours sincerely, ALAN SKED, The London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of International History, Houghton Street, WC2, January 30.

questions about its effectiveness, is almost unbelievably good.

Do these people seriously believe that a war can be won without casualties or that any defensive system can be 100 per cent effective?

Yours faithfully, D. A. P. SAUNDERS-DAVIES, Home Farm Cottage, Over, Nr Romsey, Hampshire, January 26.

From Dom Alberic Stacpoole

Sir, I have just been viewing General de la Billière on BBC, at his first war briefing (report, January 26), seeming to apologise that by Day 9 the RAF had sustained eight casualties.

We have now become perhaps too sensitive about war casualties. We might recall, as a single RAF example from World War II, that of the 16 aircraft which attacked the Möhne and Eder dams, eight were shot down including those of both flight commanders. "Only one man escaped to become a POW" wrote Guy Gibson, "only one out of 56, for there is not much chance at 50 feet!"

Yours faithfully, ALBERIC STACPOOLE, Ampleforth Abbey, York.

prove our services in 1991-2 for our growing population. Indications from colleagues elsewhere suggest that no county will exceed its spending target by more than 5 per cent next year and yet here we have a single district budgeting to spend more than 80 per cent above its target.

The county council's budget decisions for next year will mean that if each of our district councils spent at the government's target figures, the average countywide charge in the county would be £333, an increase of only 5.4 per cent on this year's average.

Yours faithfully, JOHN SHERIDAN (Chairman, Policy and Resources Committee), IAN ELLIOTT (Leader), West Sussex County Council, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, January 31.

Problems of guilt

From Mr C. H. Walton

Sir, I deplore an apparent revival in the practice of inferring that all the problems which afflict the world are "our fault". A recent manifestation of this comes from your correspondence on famine and birth control in the Third World (January 8, 11, 15, 16, 19, 24).

The argument runs thus: if the money which was spent on the first day of the Gulf war (our fault) had been saved it would be sufficient to eliminate the famine in Africa (also our fault). The arithmetic may be correct but the juxtaposition of the two events is designed to intensify a feeling of guilt.

Enough has been said about the Gulf. As to Africa, even those who, for example, the Horn of Africa know that there is something fundamentally wrong with the governance of its countries. And those of us who have worked to alleviate the effects of past famines know that solutions to their problems lie only partially in external aid.

There are plenty of good reasons for supporting the Africa in Crisis appeal. Misplaced guilt and false expectations are not among them.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER WALTON, Wolfson College, Oxford, January 24.

Seeking multi-city Olympics venue

From the Deputy Leader of Sheffield City Council

Sir, The very idea of London hosting the Olympic Games in 2000 (reports, January 30, 31) must fill many people with horror, not least with regard to the effect this will have on the already horrendous traffic problems in that city. But more worrying are the consequences to our northern cities of more prestigious buildings and arenas being constructed in London. The result could have serious implications for Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester, etc., — cities currently attempting to regenerate on the back of sport and flagship arenas.

Is it not time for the British Olympic Association to think more radically and try to break the mould of single-city bids to host the Olympic Games as is presently insisted upon by the International Olympics Committee?

Surely it would be far more logical for the BOA to attempt to put together an original bid encompassing more than one city all within one hour's drive of each other and already having most of the facilities required to host an Olympic Games. The absence of transport and traffic difficulties together with a more relaxed way of life must appear more attractive to the international movement.

The superb new facilities being provided by Sheffield for the World Student Games this summer, linked to those in Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds and Manchester, would provide everything required for a modern Olympic Games.

As a nation we need to maximise our resources for the benefit of the country as a whole and for an island as small as Britain to attempt to replicate these within one of the most overcrowded cities in the world is not only a waste of valuable resources but must surely be a planning nightmare.

Yours faithfully, PETER PRICE, Deputy Leader, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, January 31.

Role for scientists

From Mr David Howard

Sir, Dr Sharpe and Professor Lamb (January 26) call attention to the lack of mainstream management opportunities for scientists and engineers and suggest non-executive directorships provide a solution at a time when industrialists are already serving on the boards of public sector entities.

Carefully making such senior appointments will certainly do no harm and should encourage more informed debate within the boardroom, thereby reducing the chances of public and private assets being mismanaged.

At a time when company accountants and auditors are being shown the errors of their short-term ways by the Accounting Standards Board it is timely to encourage chairmen to seek assistance from those professions trained in the processes by which new, improved products and services can be taken to market more quickly.

Those companies driven by a primary concern for the long-term interests of their customers and other stakeholders must always outperform those concerned primarily with the short-term interests of their shareholders alone. Examples abound in the Far East for those who may doubt these words.

Yours faithfully, DAVID HOWARD, Hill House, 20 Old Hill, Chislehurst, Kent, January 26.

Early 'cowboys'

From Mr R. Verrells

Sir, I could support Dr Richards (January 24) were he to protest against *late* errors of period: when, for example, in a television play, soldiers in column of fours fall to farm two-deep after turning into line, I fall out of my chair in completing the movement for them.

However, if Cassius can say "The clock hath stricken three" (*Julius Caesar*, II, 1), then deliberate anachronism, employed for dramatic impact, is respectable. The introduction of premature "cowboys" helps our understanding and enables affairs to proceed more quickly.

Yours faithfully, R. VERRELLS, 69 Torwood Lane, Whyteleafe, Surrey, January 24.

Gnome from home?

From Mr David Roberts

Sir, Colonies of garden gnomes can be seen in Australia, South Africa, and North America; probably throughout the English-speaking world. Are they truly British expatriates or are they, there and here, pervasive refugees from some other land? And what is it in their history or culture that keeps their women hidden?

Yours faithfully, DAVID ROBERTS, 110 High Street, Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, January 30.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

January 31: The Queen was represented by Major Sir Shane Blount (Keeper of the Privy Purse) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Wheeler (formerly Clerk of the Council and Keeper of the Records, Duchy of Lancaster) which was held in the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, London WC2, today.

KENSINGTON PALACE

January 31: The Prince of Wales, Chairman of the Mountbatten Memorial Trust and Vice-President of the Royal National College for the Blind, launched the Mountbatten Brailier.

Birthdays today

Mrs Jennifer Adams, superintendant, Central Royal Parks, 43; Sir Kenneth Bond, vice-chairman, GEC, 71; Major H. Stanley Cyster, 81; Sir Peter Crill, 81; Sir John Dalton, 87; Mrs Joceline Dimbleby, cookery writer, 48; Professor Sir Sam Edwards, physicist, 63; the Very Rev Eric Evans, Dean of St Paul's, 63; Mr E. Evans, rugby player, 66; Mr Don Everly, singer, 54; Mr Robert Gittings, poet, biographer and playwright, 80; Sir Douglas Hall, former governor, Somalia, Protectorate, 82; Sir Gordon Hobday, Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, 75; Professor Douglas Johnson, historian, 66; Sir Maurice Laing, president, John Laing, 73; Mrs Virginia Leng, three-day eventer, 36; Sir Jack Lyons, company chairman, 75; Sir Stanley Matthews, footballer, 76; Lord Mountbatten, 48; Sir John Nott, former MP, 59; Professor Sir Mark Richmond, chairman, Science and Engineering Research Council, 68; Mr Peter Salis, actor, 70; Mrs Muriel Spark, writer, 73; Sir Peter Tapsell, MP, 61; Miss Renata Tebaldi, soprano, 69.

Reception

NARAT
The Hon William Waldegrave, Secretary of State for Health, was the principal guest at the annual reception of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts (NAHAT) held last night at the Banqueting House, Whitehall. Mr William Darling, chairman, welcomed the guests.

Cathedral on target

The £4 million appeal target for urgent repairs to Worcester Cathedral has been reached after 27 months. Half the money is being spent on the medieval tower, which was in danger of collapse. About £300,000 a year will be needed during the next 25 years to produce the £6 million to cover the complete restoration of the cathedral.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.P. Anderson and Miss M. Maxwell
The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of Mr and Mrs Frank Anderson, of Blackburn, Lancashire, and Mary, younger daughter of Lord and Lady Maxwell, of Edinburgh.

Mr J.P. Barclay and Miss M. Alderson
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr Ian Barclay, of Ayr, Ayrshire, and Mrs Carolyn Mollo, of Farnham, Surrey, and Mandy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Barry Alderson, of Lambeth, South London.

Mr P. de V. Buckingham and Miss G. Lazzaretti
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr K. de V. Buckingham, of Ashbury, Oxford, and Miss G. Lazzaretti, of Posenno, Bergamo, Italy.

Mr J.F. Gibbons and Miss S.I. Dillon
The engagement is announced between James, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel T.B. Gibbons, of Millers, Lancashire, and Miss S.I. Dillon, of Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Mr M.C. de Nardi and Miss L.H. Dexter
The engagement is announced between Maurizio, son of Mr and Mrs Gerardo de Nardi, of Tarzo, Treviso, Italy, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Dexter, of Millers, Lancashire.

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The Princess of Wales visited RAF and Army servicemen, their families and families of those already in the Gulf, in Germany.

Viscountess Campden and Squadron Leader David Barton RAF were in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 31: Princess Alexandra, Patron of The Richmond Fellowship, this morning received Mr Christopher Casserley on retiring as United Kingdom Chairman, Mr Peter Kinninmonth upon assuming this appointment and Miss Ely Jansen, Director of The Richmond Fellowship International.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Sir Edward Coke, jurist and politician, Moleham, Norfolk, 1552; John Kemble, actor-manager, Prescott, Lancashire, 1757; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, poet and dramatist, Vienna, 1874; Dame Clara Butt, contralto, Southwick, Sussex, 1872; Louis Saint Laurent, prime minister of Canada 1948-57, Compton, Quebec, 1882.

DEATHS

Kenneth Denham, philosopher, Stockholm, 1950; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, novelist, London, 1851; George Cruikshank, caricaturist, London, 1878; Piet Mondrian, painter, New York, 1944; Buster Keaton, silent film comedian, Woodland Hills, California, 1966.

The USSR was formally recognised by Britain, 1924.

St John Ambulance

The annual St John Awards for St John County Organisations were presented on Wednesday at the Order of St John to representatives of St John Organisations in Humber-side, Cumbria and Surrey.

University news

London
King's College
Promotions to readership (from October 1990)
Dr J. H. D. Jones, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD, to reader in Portuguese; Jeremy H. Smith, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD, to reader in German; Dr J. H. D. Jones, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD, to reader in German; Dr J. H. D. Jones, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD, to reader in German.

Lancaster

Three new chairs have been established, in electronic engineering, environmental chemistry and psychology. Dr Mark Brown, of UMIST, has been appointed professor of electronic engineering, from May; Dr William Davison, of the Institute of Fresh Water Ecology at Ambleside, Cumbria, becomes professor of environmental chemistry, in March; Dr Graham Hiles, of Manchester University, has been appointed professor of psychology, from August.

OBITUARIES

JOHN BARDEEN

John Bardeen, American physicist, co-inventor of the transistor and double Nobel prizewinner, died on January 30 aged 82. He was born on May 23, 1908.

TO WIN one Nobel prize is a remarkable distinction; to win two, as John Bardeen did, is to join a tiny elite that can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Only three individuals have won two Nobel prizes for scientific achievement: Marie Curie, John Bardeen, and Frederick Sanger. (Linus Pauling was also awarded the prize twice, but the second, in 1962, recognised his efforts in the cause of peace.)

Bardeen first won the prize in 1956, sharing it with William Shockley and Walter Brattain for the discovery of the transistor. Working together at Bell Telephone Laboratories, the three combined their talents to create one of the most significant inventions of the 20th century: the transistor, a device for amplifying, controlling and generating electrical signals that was small, rugged, and cheap. Its effects in radio, television, computers and a vast range of electronic devices have helped create a new industrial revolution, influencing the way we live as profoundly as did the invention of the steam engine in the 18th century.

To the group Bardeen brought a profound understanding of the way in which quantum mechanics affects the behaviour of solids. Shockley, later better known for his espousal of eugenic theories, led the group working on semiconductor devices, while Brattain added his remarkable experimental talents. Together they produced



from a fragment of germanium a device which could duplicate the operations of the electronic valve, at a fraction of the price and with far greater reliability.

Their discovery was made in 1948, but few realised its significance and it was not until 1951 that the first commercial devices were produced. From this simple point-contact transistor is derived the entire range of silicon integrated circuits on which huge industries and entire economies now depend.

United States in 1941 Bardeen became a physicist at the US naval ordnance laboratory, serving there for the duration of hostilities. Afterwards he did not go back immediately to academia but spent the years 1945 to 1951 at the Bell Telephone Laboratory, where his first great discovery was made.

In 1951 Bardeen took up a chair in electrical engineering and physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana, and it was here that he developed a theory to explain the phenomenon of superconductivity. When metals are cooled to temperatures close to absolute zero, they lose all resistance to the passage of an electrical current, a phenomenon first discovered by Kamerlingh Onnes in 1911.

Once again, Bardeen shared a Nobel Prize for physics with two colleagues, Leon Cooper of Brown University, Rhode Island, and John Schrieffer of the University of Pennsylvania, and the theory that bears their initials, the BCS theory, formed the basis for all subsequent theoretical work on the subject. Bardeen's second Nobel Prize for physics was awarded in 1972.

While on the staff of the University of Illinois Bardeen also served on the President's Science Advisory Committee and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977. Among his many honours from around the world were foreign membership of the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Medicine, the Royal Society of Arts, and the Royal Society of Sciences.

He married, in 1938, Jane Maxwell. They had two sons and a daughter.

LORD LLOYD OF KILGERRAN

Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, CBE, QC, president of the Liberal party, 1973-74, died on January 30 aged 83. He was born on August 12, 1907.

LORD Lloyd of Kilgerran was a mercurial, brilliant and unorthodox man. Throughout his life and in a diverse and interesting career he demonstrated a capacity to engender both considerable affection and some hostility from among his colleagues.

A science scholar of Solwyn College, Cambridge (and an honorary fellow from 1967), Rhys Gerran Lloyd, as he was born, was initially a schoolmaster and taught at Bembridge School on the Isle of Wight. He was considerably involved with that establishment even after his teaching days.

However in the late 1930s he was called to the bar and from 1945 until 1968 he practised at the patent bar, taking silk in 1961. During the war he served in the research

department of the Ministry of Aircraft Production and afterwards he was a member of a number of scientific and educational bodies. He was appointed CBE for his public services in 1953.

He had developed a very good practice at the bar but from the late 1950s he spent an increasing amount of time working for the Liberal party, becoming its parliamentary candidate in the constituency of Anglesey in 1959. In the early 1970s he became one of Jeremy Thorpe's right hand men and was successively the president of the Welsh Liberal party from 1971 to 1974, president of the UK Liberal party, 1974-75, and its joint treasurer from 1977 to 1983.

Also, during this period he became increasingly involved in business activities and in education and scientific trusts. These interests he carried with him into the House of Lords when he was made a life peer in 1973, taking the title of Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, of

Llanwenog, Cardigan. He was a very active member from his introduction until just before Christmas of last year. In particular, he greatly impressed the House by his obvious expertise on matters affecting business and science. He made notable contributions during debate to the improvement of the Patents, Designs and Marks bill in 1986 and the Copyright, Designs and Patents bill of 1988 and to the various companies bills which came before the House. He was a founder member of the House of Lords science and technology committee and served on it from 1980 to 1985 and he became the chairman of the Foundation for Science and Technology in 1983 and continued in that capacity until his death.

Although priding himself primarily on his technical and scientific contributions to Parliament where such expertise was generally a minority interest, Gerran Lloyd was also a champion of the in-

terests of the neglected underdogs as he regarded them, as he demonstrated in his eloquent pleas for the retention of the rural telephone box in the debates on the Telecommunications bill, and for the private rights of service personnel who did not want to be identified as such on the electoral registers.

He was proud of his Welsh ancestry. Very much an individualist with a pishish sense of humour and a great zest for life, he was fortunate in his very happy marriage to his wife, Phyllis, who survives him with their two daughters. There is no doubt that his greatest love was his closely knit family and he took great delight in his grandchildren. Without a doubt one of the greatest blows he sustained was the sudden death about two years ago of his brilliant son-in-law, D. G. Robins, QC.

Gerran Lloyd was a popular member of the House of Lords with colleagues and staff alike.

DR RICHARD STANTON-JONES

Richard Stanton-Jones, aeronautical engineer, died at Seaview, Isle of Wight, on January 23 aged 64. He was born on September 25, 1926.

FOR more than 30 years Richard Stanton-Jones was in the forefront of the creation and development of a wide range of advanced aeronautical projects. He was an aerodynamicist and designer of ballistic rockets, hovercraft and amphibious landing craft. He achieved further eminence as managing director of the British Hovercraft Corporation and as vice-chairman of Westland Helicopters.

Born in Bombay, Dick Stanton-Jones was educated at King Edward VI School, Stourbridge, and King's College, Cambridge, where he took the mechanical sciences tripos and gained a degree in engineering. From there he went on to the College of Aeronautics at Cranfield and then, in 1950, to join the de Havilland engine company at Hatfield to work under A. V. Cleave in the DH special projects section (later the rocket division) on the application of rocket propulsion to aeroplanes.

Following work on the DH Sprite, hydrogen peroxide rocket project for the assisted take-off of heavily loaded aircraft (and especially the DH Comet) Stanton-Jones contributed valuably to the design of Blue Streak - a long range air and ground launched ballistic missile. He followed this by a year in the United States with the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation on early space investigations. He returned to England in 1956 to join Saunders-Roe on the Isle of Wight to take a leading part in a collaborative contract with de Havilland on the development of the warhead and other components of Blue Streak in the form of a hydrogen peroxide re-entry test rocket named Black Knight. The prototype was successfully launched from Woomera in Australia on September 7, 1958, with a ground to ground range of 300 miles - later extended to almost twice that distance.

Black Knight at Saunders-Roe led on to the design, for the Ministry of Supply, of the advanced SR-53 single-seat supersonic interceptor-fighter project for the design of which Stanton-Jones was chief aerodynamicist under the SR-53 fighter was notable for its mixed power-plant, a 1640lb thrust Armstrong Siddeley Viper jet engine and an 8,000lb Spectre Rocket. A successful first flight was completed on May 16, 1957, at Boscombe Down. Meanwhile a larger and more powerful project - the SR-17 - had been ordered for both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy, designed to fly at Mach 2.25 as a multi-role combat aircraft with an initial order for 27 aircraft with 300 more in prospect including some for both the US and West German air forces.

In April 1957, however, the negative Sandys defence White Paper was published

which proposed the cancellation of all manned fighter development with the exception of the English Electric P1 - later the Lightning. On Christmas Eve 1957 the MoS cancelled all further work on the SR-53 supersonic contracts and took Saunders-Roe out of the fixed wing aircraft business.

Stanton-Jones was however still involved in the Black Knight rocket programme which continued successfully until it, too, joined the list of cancellations in 1964 and with it the cancellation of the British space programme. One inevitable consequence was a succession of resignations of SR-53 senior engineering staff on the heels of an earlier take-over of Saunders-Roe - in August 1959 - by Westland Aircraft of Yeovil, and with it SR-53's helicopter design and production of the military Skeeter helicopter and the prototype work on the future Scout helicopter.

Ahead of this, in August 1957 Saunders-Roe had received from the Ministry of Supply the world's first contract for the design and building of a prototype air cushion vehicle (ACV), the invention of Sir Christopher Cockerill with Dick Stanton-Jones at his right hand. The world's first man-carrying ACV, or "hovercraft" - the experimental SR-N1 was launched in June 1959 and successfully crossed the English Channel on July 25 on the 50th anniversary of Bleriot's first



cross channel flight. Responsibility for the design and development of ACVs now fell to Dick Stanton-Jones culminating in the SR-N4 cross channel hovercraft of 150 tons. Stanton-Jones was appointed deputy managing director of the British Hovercraft Corporation and a director of Westland Aircraft in 1966 and from 1968-1984 deputy chairman of BHC and vice-chairman of Westland Aircraft.

He retired in 1984 and continued to live in Seaview on the Isle of Wight having received a Royal Aeronautical Society's silver medal for meritorious design in 1965 and the American Elmer Sperry Award for transport advances in 1968.

In 1949 he had married Dorine Mary Watkins by whom he had a son Richard. They both survive him.

Luncheons

Carmen's Company
Sir Robert Reid, Master of the Carmen's Company, assisted by Mr E.R. Brn, Senior Warden, and Mr K.E. Parry, Junior Warden, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at Haberdashers' Hall. Mr Alderman Sir Christopher Leaver and Mr E. Worrall also spoke.

Management Consultancies Association
Mr Vladimir Ivanov, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, was guest of honour at a luncheon yesterday, given by the Management Consultancies Association, at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Mr George Cox, President of the Association, presided.

Sheraton Park Tower Hotel
The Park Tower Luncheon Club held its monthly luncheon on Monday, January 31, 1991, in the Sheraton Park Tower Hotel. The General Manager Derek Poot and the Public Relations Manager Georgina Sullivan were the hosts. The guests were: Captain Brayfield, Emily Bolton, Pilar Boxford, Glynn Christian, Richard Hill, Frank Bough and John Rendall.

Dinners

Mr Ian Taylor, MBE, MP
Mr Ian Taylor, MBE, MP, entertained Munday's Solicitors of Essex, together with some of their corporate clients last night in the House of Commons. The speakers were: Mr Peter Munday, Solicitor Partner of Munday, Mr Taylor and Mr Gerald Davison, Executive Chairman of The Keep Trust Plc.

The Marketing Group of Great Britain
Mr David Wynne-Morgan, presided over the dinner held last night at the Hyatt Carlton Hotel by the Marketing Group of Great Britain. The guest speaker was the Right Hon Sir Leon Brittan, QC, Vice President, Commission of the European Communities.

Skeletons give clues to village slaughter by Spanish raiders

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

STUDY of skeletons from a native American village in Georgia has shed light on a brutal Spanish raid 450 years ago.

Researchers say deep gashes in the bones can be identified as cuts from swords, which were not carried by American natives, and that some of the victims were young women, whose slaughter was contrary to local practice.

The evidence comes from the King site, a 16th century community of the Coosa kingdom, which stretched from Tennessee to Alabama. The settlement lay in a bend of the Coosa river, in an area of fertile land covering about two hectares. It was defended by a ditch and palisade on three sides.

The 50 houses suggest a population of about 300, and an occupation of less than half a century, from 1535-1570. The 189 skeletons excavated represent about half the burials at the site, and this yields a crude death rate of 36 per thousand population, well above that for modern developed countries. A number of burials were accompanied by

European artefacts, including iron chisels, swords, axes and knives.

Eighty-five per cent of the skeletons could be aged and/or sexed, and significant numbers of the dead were found to have been between 20-29 and 40-49 years old. The younger group was predominantly made up of women with young men comparatively uncommon.

Drs Robert Bakely and David Mathews of Georgia State University say this higher mortality rate in the third and fifth decades is due to fatalities from battle: up to a quarter of the residents were casualties of "a hostile encounter", with both fatal and healed wounds visible on the bones.

The 37 wounded individuals had a range of cuts and punctures, with nearly 80 per cent of the wounds being slashing cuts delivered from above. Most were on the front of the body, and some extended across two limbs. The wedge-shaped cuts into the bone replicate those examined on medieval battle dead from Europe and Japan, and

confirm the use of a slashing sword, a weapon not used by the Coosa people.

"We are convinced that the injuries were inflicted by steel weapons made in Europe and brought to the Americas by the Spaniards," the investigators say.

The identity of the Spaniards can be fairly firmly established from the chronicles of the early *entradas* into southeastern North America. The 1567 expedition of Juan Pardo did not reach the area, and that of Tristan de Luna in 1565 was dependent on the Coosa for protection, and also attacked a rival tribe in collaboration with the Coosa.

Only the first *entrada*, that of Hernando de Soto in 1540, fits the geographical facts, and also reported fighting and slave taking.

The *entradas* chronicles suggest that the King site may have been either the village of Fiachi, which de Soto reached at the end of August 1540, or Uliabahi, which is described as a heavily palisaded and defended village.

Prince will present community awards

By CHARLES KNEVITT, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales, patron of the Community Enterprise Awards Scheme, is to present this year's awards at the Royal Institute of British Architects' central London, on July 9. Kensington Palace announced yesterday.

The awards, for "the most imaginative, viable and need-

fulfilling" community development projects in the UK, are sponsored by The Times, the RIBA and Business in the Community, and include new categories for rural initiatives

and business. The closing date for entries is March 7. Details and entry forms from Robin Dean, Community Enterprise Scheme, RIBA, 66 Pall Mall, London W1N 4AD; telephone 071-580-5533.

Britain's first "green" headquarters building, an office block at Broadgate, in the City, and a school for children with severe learning difficulties won awards for innovation in building design and education yesterday from the Community Enterprise Awards Scheme.

Jeremy Isaacs, General Director of the Royal Opera House, presented the fifth annual awards to RIMM for the National Farmers' Union and Avon Insurance Group's head office, Stratford-upon-Avon; Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments for Exchange House, Broadgate, and Cheshire county council for Springfield Special School, Crewe.

The awards were presented by the Prince of Wales, who will also present the awards at the Royal Institute of British Architects' central London, on July 9.

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The Duke of Gloucester, GCVO, Grand Prior of the Order of St John, has appointed Lord Vestey, DL, to succeed Lord Grey of Naunton, GCMG, GCVO, OBE, as Lord Prior, and Professor Anthony Mellows, TD, to become Chancellor of the Order in succession to Lord Vestey. Both appointments will take effect from St John's Day, June 24, 1991.

A collection of nearly 900 Cecil Beaton photographs of friends such as Siegfried Sassoon, Greta Garbo, Fred Astaire as well as Beaton himself have been acquired for the nation, Tim Renton, the arts minister, said yesterday.

The original prints were owned by Beaton's long-time secretary, Miss Ellen Rose, until her recent death.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir William Hinder, Secretary of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Coocham, near Maidhead, Berkshire, on Friday, March 22, 1991, at 12.45 pm. Those wishing to attend the service should notify Mrs Jackie Stood at the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Coocham, Tel 06285 24922.

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Clare Short, the outspoken MP, is a favourite target for the tabloids. Now, however, one newspaper's pursuit of her private life has sent her to the new Press Complaints Commission. Kate Muir reports

"This latest experience has been the worst so far, and what makes it worse is that there is nothing you can do to stop them. It appears that the *News of the World* has crawled over the whole of my adult life." She wants the PCC to investigate whether such "crawling" constitutes an invasion of her privacy.

One journalist visited Ms Short's former husband, to whom she was married in the late Sixties, and Ms Short alleged in Parliament, offered him between £5,000 and £20,000 for "naughty" photographs of her wearing a nightie. The *News of the World* denied this. She also suspects the reporter spoke to her ex-husband, Alex Lyon, the former MP, who suffers from incurable spinal atrophy. She alleges the disbanded West Midlands serious crime squad was the source of the main story about the former boyfriend who had a criminal

In fact, it was a fully clothed Mr. Hatterley who said last week that politicians should expect the press to scrutinise them more than ordinary people. The Calcutt report on privacy, which spawned the PCC, said that someone who "adopts a position of moral leadership can reasonably be subject to greater scrutiny than his fellow citizens". "I accept that," says Ms Short, "but wearing a nightie is I think a fairly normal

Fighting spirit: Clare Short accepts that people who adopt a position of moral leadership can come under greater scrutiny than the rest of us, but feels that a line should be drawn.

Ms Short, however, thinks there is little to be proud of. "The commission was supposed to be about sensible self-regulation by the press, but self-regulation like this brings the whole thing into disrepute before it has started."

Generally, the standards of behaviour of the press and some MPs towards women politicians are rather low. The quiet and presentable are admired, until they get up to speak. It is rather like being a woman walking past a crowd of lascivious workmen. First they whistle appreciatively and shout, "Smile, darling", or whatever. Then, when you scowl or challenge them, a barrage of "doe" or "stupid bitch" follows you down the street. Within seconds you have gone from beauty to bitch, just because you uttered a word of complaint.

So, in the flesh, of course. Ms Short appears wonderful. "People are always shocked when they meet me. They immediately think I'm nice just because of the contrast with my newspaper image. And Commons television has made things a lot easier."

She is not exactly photogenic, but is one of those people made attractive by her energy. At the age of 44, the MP for Birmingham Ladywood dresses well, in black trousers, a grey double-breasted jacket and big silver fish earrings. She seems very real and strong compared to the desiccated, serv-

Those outside the house, however, imagine just that, particularly about the woman who has promoted not one, but two unsuccessful anti-page three bills, and occasionally, when the mood takes her, takes the press on a raid of W.H. Smith's top shelf lovelies. Few people remember

In fact two issues have haunted her over the past two weeks: the Gulf and the *News of the World* — "the sublime to the ridiculous". She feels valuable time is being wasted on the subject of her past life, her nightie, and press complaints. And she resents it.

GEORGE HILL

GALLERIES

Simply the best shows in town

John Russell Taylor reviews a spectacular gathering of masterworks in London and three exceptional exhibitions in Sheffield

No doubt about what has been the most publicised art event of the week: the opening of the Impressionist and other Master Paintings from the Emil G. Bührle Collection, Zurich, on loan to the Royal Academy. Unfortunately, the publicity has not been quite what the Academy and its sponsors, Glaxo, would have wished: much of it has focused on the complicated question of what dealings, if any, the Swiss industrialist had with the Nazis.

That matter, however (raised in these columns on October 3), is irrelevant to enjoyment of this show: art cannot be guilty by association, and this art, especially, is far beyond politics. Here is simply the most spectacular gathering of miscellaneous masterworks which has been sighted in London for a long time. Some of the paintings are familiar, at least in reproduction, though it is always an intense pleasure to be face to face with, say, Cézanne's "The Boy in the Red Vest", Van Gogh's "Wheat Field with Cypress", or La Tour's "Messaline". But a sizeable proportion, coming from the family's private collection rather than the Bührle Foundation, are not normally on show in Zurich. Even some that are make an unexpected impact: Manet's "Olympion-Sainte-Marie", with its arbitrary, enchanting cat, and his astonishing female full-length "La Sultane" are prime examples. But there is not a picture in the show which does not interest, move or amaze.

The Bührle Collection appears there is no doubt that Sheffield is the liveliest place for a day of art at present. An astonishing variety of shows is available in the various city galleries, all devised and carried through in fine style despite the desperately straitened financing of art in the city. Each of the three major Sheffield City Art Galleries has opened an important show during the last few days.

At the Ruskin Gallery there is a ground-breaking show devoted to the art and life of Elizabeth Siddal, who has been remembered, if at all, as wife of Dante Gabriel Rossetti and anorexic model for many of his earlier paintings. But evidence has recently come to light that when she met her first Pre-Raphaelite, Walter Howell Deverell, who used her as a model in his "Twelfth Night" in 1850, she was already an aspiring artist.

Seeing most of her surviving work gathered together with no explanation, one would recognise her as a minor Pre-Raphaelite. But few and slight though the works are, they are distinctive in style.

Rossetti taught her, to some extent, but he shared with Ruskin an interest in naive and untrained styles, and recognised the dangers of teaching too much. There is a fetching simplicity and directness about her pictures (as about her few poems) and, as the self-portrait in oils demonstrates, Siddal had sufficient technique to express herself more than adequately.

Not even Jan Marsh, who wrote the recent biography and has curated this show, is going to claim that Siddal was an important artist. But her main claim to fame is no longer that of being Rossetti's Beatrice and Millais' Ophelia. The fact that she was does enable us to recognise that all the figures in her own art, male and female, are facially self-portraits. She must have been obsessed with her own appearance, and this adds to the psychological and aesthetic conundrum.

The main new show at the Graves Art Gallery, The Absent Presence, will be at the Geffrye Museum in London next month. But seeing it in Sheffield pays bonuses: the cramped galleries of the Geffrye Museum, perfect for the smaller works, will exclude all but a couple of the larger. That will be unfortunate: one of the points of the show is that the subject of the unpeopled interior, in so far as it has ever been presented as a distinct subject, is not necessarily confined to intimate painting.

Since the beginning of the 19th century it has been a persistent presence in British art. Anne Goodchild, who has curated the show, has summoned up an astonishing combination of sublime and cosy, cluttered and spare, staid and surreal. They all come together to illuminate each other by skilful and unexpected juxtapositions: the great test of a theme show. How astonishing that the splendid Cadell, "The Blue Room" (1926), should turn out to share the same tonality as Stephen Farthing's "A Room in Saumur" (1990). How extraordinary to see one of Victor Newson's bathroom series without any sign of the lady in the bath, or a wonderfully stark, strong Piper from the



"Mare with Foals", 1912, by Franz Marc (1880-1916): one of a vast collection on show from the Emil G. Bührle Collection, Zurich.

Imperial War Museum. "The Passage to the Control Room at SW Regional Headquarters, Bristol" (1946), brings together the best qualities of his topographical work of the Forties with those of his Thirties abstracts.

The project now being worked on by David Nash at the Mappin Gallery is oddly related, in that it seeks to bring the outdoors inside and take some of the inside out. In recent years Nash has been seen working more abroad, particularly in Japan. It might be forgotten that he is one of the most successful living British artists: a sculptor mainly in wood, but of a special sort. Partly he works in the traditional way, shaping pieces of cut wood. But he also works directly in the environment, training living trees and creating natural assemblages that move and grow and take on a continuing life of their own.

At a later stage in this project Nash will be working in the second way in the woods which girdle Sheffield. But his new, specially commissioned "Wood Quarry" is of the first sort. It scatters two of the Mappin's grandest Victorian classical galleries with pieces which, sometimes, look as though they have reached the way they are almost without human intervention, and sometimes are obviously the product of a sophisticated intelligence. The way this rough-hewn wood interacts with its starchy surroundings is magical: it is not clear whether art is taking over from nature, or vice versa. Either way, the space where they meet and mingle is an exciting place to be.

Great Impressionist and Other Master Paintings from the Emil G. Bührle Collection, Zurich. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-439 7436). Daily (not March 29) 10-6, until April 14. Elizabeth Siddal, Ruskin Gallery, 101 Norfolk Street, Sheffield (0742 735299), Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, until April 13. The Absent Presence, Graves Art Gallery, Survey Street, Sheffield (0742 734788), Mon-Sat 10-6, until March 2. David Nash, Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield (0742 726281), Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5, until Feb 24.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

FULL-BLOWN Stanley Spencer's mystical art leaves few people unmoved, whether to delight or dismay. In the centenary show he looks more than ever like the greatest British artist of the century. Stanley Spencer: The Apotheosis of Love, Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9028), Mon-Sat 10-6-45 (Tues to 5.45, Thurs to 7.45), Sun 12-6.45, until April 1.

OUT OF AFRICA The signals, artistic and otherwise, which come out of South Africa are confused and difficult for the

outside to decode. This new touring show puts black and white together in at least a diplomatic dialogue. Art from South Africa, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-628 8800), daily 10-10, until Feb 24.

ON THE SQUARE Alan Reynolds first attracted attention in the Forties with his bold, solid, and powerful landscape and portrait. In the line of his late work, he has produced a series of paintings that are a masterpiece of the modernist movement. New Displays 1991 Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-621 7128), Mon-Sat 10-6-30, Sun 2-5-30, throughout the year.

EXHIBITION: BRITISH MUSEUM

Fruits of canny purchasing

Joseph Connolly on a show of recent BM acquisitions

The official estimate of the number of prints and drawings held by the British Museum is "something over two million". In the last five years alone, 3,000 have been added, and 200 of these recent acquisitions now form a new exhibition. Flawless in its own right, it also offers an insight into the buying policy that vitalises this massive collection.

The British Museum sees its archive primarily as a research library, so the business of acquisition is dictated by perceived gaps in the collection, as well as by some opportunistic purchasing, gifts, bequests and what deputy keeper Antony Griffiths refers to as "estate duty jobs" (whereby a work of art is accepted by the government in lieu of tax).

The museum's purchase grant has remained frozen since 1985, and yet since then the art market has seen astonishing price rises. Nevertheless, the British Museum's buyers have exploited underrated avenues of collecting and acquired some fine rarities, bought for sums that the likes of the Getty Museum would regard as derisory. One such item dominates the entrance: a large fragment of a mid-17th-century cartoon by the Roman Baroque artist, Pier Francesco Molin. It is a preparatory sketch for one of the figures in possibly his best known fresco, "Joseph Greeting his Brethren". The British Museum is secretive about prices paid, but sources suggest around £50,000: a tenth of its probable present value.

Also outstanding from the Italian school is a highly finished yet utterly simple rendering of the Crucifixion by Guido Reni (1575-1642) — acquired cheaply as being by "School of Reni" — and some fine work by the Mannerist, Francesco Salviati (1510-1553). There are excellent drawings by the German painter Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553) and a characteristically strong pencil sketch by Rembrandt. The British graphic section includes a complete set of Hogarth's 12 copper plates, "Industry and Idleness", and



"Three Orientals in Discussion", by Rembrandt

the only known self-portrait drawing by Gainsborough.

Two areas in which the museum has evidently been striving to strengthen its collection are French 19th-century academic drawings (the Impressionists are too expensive — although a pretty little Cézanne homage to Delacroix is here, the result of an "estate duty job") and British and French satirical prints and caricatures. The existing collection of British caricatures is already the most comprehensive anywhere, but their French counterparts have been little collected and underpriced; even in France they are regarded more as social history than art. A suitably bawdy selection is on show, largely satirising the English while borrowing hugely from the technique of Thomas Rowlandson.

The French drawings are often florid and exhibit a self-conscious inclination towards a Baroque approach, seen at its best in Hebert's crayon and chalk drawing of a young girl. Astonishingly, the bulk of this large section was acquired in Paris, and export licences are still freely granted.

The 20th-century section was pre-empted by last year's exhibition "Avant-garde British Printmaking". Nonetheless

there are strong representations from, among others, William Roberts, Henry Moore, Stanley Spencer, Walter Sickert and Mark Gertler. Particularly refreshing is a marvellous magenta, grey and white abstract by Cecil Collins. A striking series by Ceri Richards owes a visible debt to Cubist-period Picasso, though Picasso himself is not represented. "We lack a decent Picasso drawing," admits Griffiths. "But with prices beginning at well over £100,000, we are never going to get one."

Prints and drawings: Acquisitions 1986-1990 at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (reopened information: 071-580 1788). Until April 21.

RECORDS: ROCK

Tasteless triumph

THE chart debut of Queen's single, "Innuendo", at No 1 last week would have seemed more impressive if Iron Maiden had not pulled off the same feat a couple of weeks earlier. It does not come as such a surprise that a soft market should be dominated by the hard-headed.

What is astounding is that in 20 years Queen have lost none of their appetite for music of the most grandiose banality. Innuendo, the album, is kitsch on a boggling scale. It recognises few frontiers of style, let alone barriers of taste, as it sweeps from mock-flamenco interludes in the title track through Muppet-style heavy metal in "Human" to the pseudo-spiritual lilt of "All God's People".

As is their wont, the group invest a high degree of musical proficiency in themes of the most added eccentricity. "Delilah" is an ode to singer Freddie Mercury's cat. "You make me slightly mad/When you see all over my Chippendale suite," Mercury serenades, with the benefit of a lush harmony accompaniment.

Only once does the burlesque pause long enough to reveal a human heart at work. "These are the Days of Our Lives", a shamelessly soppy, middle-aged paean to the passing of youth, is a song which will touch a chord with the more mellow breed of Queen fan and possibly even beyond.

Tania Tikaram should not have included a lyric sheet with Everybody's Angel. Meaning often proves elusive in songs. Left to their own devices, listeners might assume that they had misheard some vital phrase, or lost the thread through their own lack of

Queen: Innuendo (Parlophone CDPCS 115). Tania Tikaram: Everybody's Angel (Eastwest 9031-73341-2). Jesus Jones: Doubt (Food FOOLP 5).

concentration. The battle to make sense of the words would swiftly subside and we would be allowed simply to luxuriate in the seductive tones of her silky voice, and to relish some of the best material she has written since the initial burst of creativity which fired her Ancient Heart debut in 1988.

Unfortunately, any rational mind confronted with the printed sheet of poetic gobbledook which accompanies Tikaram's music can only conclude that she has either got something to hide or nothing to say, so assiduously does she use words to obfuscate meaning. Having steered her music in a rootsy direction — with a sprightly horn section lending distinct echoes of Van Morrison's Celtic swing, especially on "Hot Pork Sandwiches" and "To Wish This" — it is a shame that she lets herself down so badly here.

With their strange haircuts and frantic stage show, Jesus Jones are the bright, buzzy darlings of the moment. Their second album, Doubt, is an odd amalgam of techno-beep and hardcore-thrash which bowls along like a fairground dogfight. It is best at its crudest — the riot of noise which underpins "Stripped" for instance — while the three hit singles, including "Real Real Real" and "International Bright Young Things", suggest a cool strategist's brain at work behind all the bluster.

DAVID SINCLAIR

BRIEFING

Reekie in recession?

EDINBURGH comes a close second to London in the quantity and quality of its exhibition spaces. But all that may be about to change: three prime venues are going "dark". While the City Art Centre has already closed for six months, for refurbishment, the Scottish Arts Council has pulled the plug on its most expensive client, the Frimmarket Gallery. Most regrettable, though, is the imminent demise of the 369 Gallery, which throughout the Eighties was a thriving mid-town community art centre with a reputation, from Moscow to Los Angeles, for Scottish painting. Now, however, a deficit of £60,000 has frightened the board of the registered charity into selling the 369's premises.

Welsh waters

THE publisher Little, Brown and Company has won the most coveted publishing coup of the year. On September 25 it will publish Prince Charles's watercolours for about £25, with profits going to the Prince of Wales's Charities Trust. Most of the 70 or so watercolours to be reproduced were on show last year in exhibitions at Urbino and Salisbury, but about a third have not been seen before. The Prince of Wales is also penning the text to go with the pictures.

Other voices

NOT content with being a great tenor, Plácido Domingo is developing an ambition to be a great baritone as well. He is all set to record the (baritone) title-role in Rossini's *Barber of Seville* for Deutsche Grammophon. The plan had originally included giving the tenor role of Count Almaviva in the same recording to one Luciano Pavarotti. But this has fallen through. Now Domingo is apparently toying with the idea of singing the title-role of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*: an altogether darker and deeper baritone.

Last chance...

LIONEL BART's rollicking knees-up version of Dickens' *Oliver!*, reminds us of the time when British musicals sounded British rather than ersatz mid-Atlantic, sub-operatic, or even sub-Atlantic. Jeremy James Taylor's cheerful production for National Youth Music Theatre at Sadler's Wells (071-278 8916) excels in the big company numbers. Julian Forsyth is a personable Fagin; Sara Wymouth belts out "As Long As He Needs Me"; the Artful Dodger steals the show along with the pocket handkerchiefs. Final performance tomorrow.

"a brilliant thriller! suspenseful and erotic with dark comic twists"

"huston is quite astonishing"

Anjelica Huston John Cusack Annette Bening

The Grifters

The highly acclaimed new thriller from Stephen Frears. A Martin Scorsese Production.

Best Actress

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OLIVER: FEB 9-13, 21-26, MAR 6, 7, 15, 16 & CONTINUING

6.00 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando
7.15 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk and his studio audience discuss living with a drink 9.55 Regional news and weather
10.00 News 10.05 Playdays 10.30 People Today with Adrian Mills and Dale Jarvis
12.00 War in the Gulf
12.15 Scene Today. The daily entertainment show, live from Pebble Mill, with Judi Spiers and Alan Titchmarsh, who are joined by Simon Potter with news and gossip from his *Showbiz File* 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Heyton. Weather
1.35 Neighbours. (Ceebs)
2.00 News followed by Going for Gold. Gameshow hosted by Henry Kelly
2.25 People Today
2.55 War in the Gulf. The latest news and developments from the war zone and live coverage of business in the House of Commons, including prime minister's question time
4.10 Head of the Class. American comedy series
4.35 Holiday '91. Includes a chance to win a villa on the Algarve coast; and reports on Starcast 91 in Pwllheli, the Black Forest in Germany; and a visit from Celine to Baden Baden (r)
5.00 News 5.05 Rally Challenge. Round five of the Mobil 1 rally from Wykeham Forest, Yorkshire
5.35 Neighbours. (r) (Ceebs). Northern Ireland: Sportsworld 5.40 Inside Uster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather
6.40 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours



Two men, with their little lady: Danson and Sealeck (7.05pm)

7.05 Wogan. The guests are the actors Tim Sealeck and Ted Danson, who are joined by six-year-old Robin Williams, their co-star in the film *Three Men and a Little Lady*, the sequel to *Three Men and a Cradle*
7.40 Brush Strokes. Re-run of the rapid John Esmond-Bob Larby sitcom with Karl Howman as Jacko, the painter and decorator with chronic woman trouble. Sandra, his ex-fiancee, is working in Elmo's pink wine bar and Jacko tries his luck with the lovely Lucia. (Ceebs)
8.10 Over My Dead Body. It Looks Good Kill. Standard American murder mystery series, with Edward Woodward as a thriller writer and Jessica Lundy as a young journalist who get together to solve real crimes. Beckett (Woodward) agrees to write the life story of a former model, acquitted of murdering her husband. Partner Niki is not convinced of her innocence. (Ceebs)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marilyn Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 The Boys from the Bush. Poetic Galah. Douglas Livingstone's comic look at contemporary Australia through the adventures of a detective agency, Melbourne Confidential. The agency is asked to provide an escort for a man-eating acromioid-novel, but must stay one step ahead of her exorcist. Tim Healy and Chris Coleman. (Ceebs). Northern Ireland: The Show 10.15 The Boys from the Bush
10.25 Kane and Abel. Lumbering adaptation of Jeffrey Archer's bestseller, starring Sam Neill and Peter Strauss as two men born on the same day whose lives intertwine. It is 1930 and an anonymous benefactor comes to the aid of Abel (Strauss) and provides the cash for him to start his rise as a hotel magnate (r) (Ceebs). Northern Ireland: 11.05-12.35 Kane and Abel 11.55 News
12.00 Film: The Caddy Treatment (1972). A solid thriller, in which hospital pathologist Peter Carey (James Coburn) is determined to prove the colleague (James Hong) is innocent of murder. Jennifer O'Hall provides the love interest, and director Blake Edwards (r) in the Pink Panther films displays a talent for suspense as well as comedy
1.45 News and weather. Ends at 1.55

8.00 News
8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two: Risk and probability 9.10 Industrial placements for teachers 9.40 Healthy food choices 10.00 This is Radio Newcastle 10.20 Caledonian and Romans in the second century AD 10.40 Ending a piece of music 11.00 Strange attempts at flying 11.15 Present-wrapping time on the space ship Investigator 11.30 GCSE German 11.45 Pond life 12.00 Sports which use natural forces for movement 12.20 Looking after a grandparent 12.50 GCSE Literature 1.20 The Broyles. Cartoon 1.40 The marks of using standard English
2.00 News and weather, followed by Words and Pictures (r)
2.15 Weekend Outlook (r)
2.20 Sport on Friday: World Sliding Championships. The women's slalom from Seefeld, Austria. Cricket: Fifth Test. Highlights of the first day's play between England and Australia in Perth; Rugby Union. A preview of the second Saturday of the five nations championship, when Wales visit Scotland and Ireland open their campaign against France; Football. The pick of this week's fourth-round FA Cup ties
3.50 Corners. If people can get chicken pox, can chickens get people pox? 4.05 Jockipony. Miranda Richardson reads the fourth part of Michael Moorcock's *My Friend Walter* (r) 4.20 Fantastic Max. Cartoon (r) 4.30 Eyespy 4.55 Newsround Extra 5.10 Grange Hill. (Ceebs)
5.30 Food and Drink (r)
6.00 Film: Tarzan and the She-Devil (1953, b/w). In his last outing as the tinsel-toped hero, Lex Barker rescues Jane (Joyce Mackenzie) from the beautiful clutches of Lynn, the Ivory Queen (Monique Van Vooren). Directed by Kurt Neumann
7.15 Cricket: Fifth Test. Fiches Benard introduces highlights of the first day's play between England and Australia in Perth
7.45 What the Papers Say. With Ian Hester, editor of *Private Eye*
8.00 Public Eye: Rugby Union - the Price of Change. Pressure continues to grow for rugby union to turn professional. Martin Bashir looks at the implications
8.30 Gardens by Design. (Ceebs)
9.00 Lazzarus. Dr. Dingwall 'You Expect Us to Believe That?'
9.30 CHOICE: Mark Arden and Stephen Frost, also known as the Oblivion Boys, star in a police spoof which draws on a number of television crime series, most notably *Hill Street Blues*. The writers, Kim Fuller and Vicki Pile, seem unsure whether to go for straight parody or to make the humour as outlandish as possible, by, for instance, having a culinary police chief cooking up tasty snacks in his office microwave. The result is a mixture of the two and not much attempt at an overall style. Individual jokes, verbal as well as visual, often hit the target and tonight's episode is nicely anchored in a story about cocaine being smuggled into Britain in a crate of haddock. But there are too many running gags which very soon outstay their welcome. On the evidence Lazzarus and Dingwall has its enjoyable daff moments but is not quite original or funny enough to rate more than a game pie. (Ceebs)



Two improbable detectives: Arden and Frost (9.00pm)

9.30 Arena: Anselm Kiefer - Operation Session
9.40 CHOICE: It has been requested that week on BBC Television. Having lured Michael Arden before the cameras on Tuesday, Arena enters the similarly private world of the German artist Anselm Kiefer. Although Kiefer is big business in the international art market, with single works fetching \$1 million and more, he is not the most accessible of talents. His subject-matter, growing out of a fascination with German history and mythology, is easier to illustrate than explain and Kiefer is not the most lucid guide to his own work. His obsession with images of warrior heroes has led to accusations of fascism, which he neither admits nor denies, preferring to dismiss the notion as irrelevant. Christopher Swaine's film, while visually strong, is not helped by his subject's tendency to indulge in metaphysical abstractions and it also fights shy of trying to subject Kiefer to independent critical examination
10.30 Newsnight with Frances Stock 11.20 Weather
11.25 Film: Raw Deal (1988, b/w). Powerful thriller with escaped convict Dennis O'Rourke on the run with his girlfriend (Claire Trevor) and the social worker (Marsha Hunt) he has kidnapped for protection. Directed by Anthony Mann. Ends at 12.50am

6.00 TV-am
9.25 ITN Gulf News Report 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Times... The Place. John Stapleton hosts the travelling discussion
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine programme, presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Lesley Ebbetts reports on the latest fashion news and Andrew Collins gives advice on how to get the most out of your hair, includes at 10.55 Regional headlines and 11.55 Thames News and weather
12.05 Rainbow: Playing the Game 12.25 Thames News and weather
12.30 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice
2.25 Thames Action. Consumer magazine presented by Viv Taylor Gee and Jacqui King
2.50 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity charades hosted by Michael Parkinson, with regular captains Lionel Blair and Liza Goddard. They are joined by Anne Diamond, Susan Jameson, Gordon Kaye, Mike Reid, Tony Statterly and Judi Spiers
3.15 Gulf News Report 3.30 Thames News headlines
3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian series
4.00 Children's ITV: Utterly Brilliant: Yo-Yoing. Timmy Mallet is taught the skills of yo-yoing by champion Don Robertson 4.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon 4.30 Fun House. With Pat Sharp
5.00 Home and Away. Soap set in sunny Summer Bay (r)
5.30 News and weather
6.00 The Day. Twenty-four hours in the life of a member of the public.
6.05 6 O'Clock Live. Presented by Frank Bough and Joanna Sheldon. As London's hospitals await casualties from the Gulf, other patients will take a lower priority. Could a French hospital ease the burden? Sheldon tries to track down William Brown, Britain's highest-paid director, whose annual salary exceeds £5 million.
6.15 News and weather
7.00 The \$54,000 Question. Bob Monkhouse asks the questions which are only worth a deflated \$5,400 for the correct answer
7.30 Coronation Street. Another slice of northern life. (Oracle)
8.00 Gulf News Report
8.05 Lazzarus. Sublimely lame northern sitcom about an unwanted couple, lived by no one except the viewing public. Pam and David attempt to reunite Brenda and Malcolm. (Oracle)



Hospital reunion: Lucinda, left, Brenda and Malcolm (8.05pm)

8.30 Surgical Spirit: Close to the Edge. Hospital comedy. Sheila (Nichola McAuliffe) has difficulties working with her new colleague Quentin (Christopher Owen) because of his eccentric behaviour. She asks the hospital's psychiatrist Elaine (Ann Friburn) for advice. (Oracle)
9.00 P.D. James: Devices and Desires. The polished whodunit has gone rather off the rails but with the last two episodes approaching, it should live up to Caroline (Helen Michael) who has suddenly become a best author, which makes Delgish (Roy Marsden) even more suspicious of her. Theresa (Lisa Taylor) tries to tell her father something she has remembered about the murders. (Oracle)
10.00 News and weather. (Oracle) 10.45 LWT News and weather
10.50 The London Programme. Trevor Phillips and his team examine why high-tech employers are leaving London. Part of the explanation lies in the technology boom which is allowing financial companies to relocate from the high-cost capital
11.20 Hooperman: Who Do You Trust? American comedy drama about the social and professional life of an unorthodox policeman (John Ritter). Hooperman has to face more than a simple fear of his own work. He has to face a former partner (Melora Hardin) given the talent director's job at her father's resort, she is met with resentment from other staff
12.50am Married... with Children: I'm Going to Sweatland. Marital mayhem with the Bundy family. Featuring Ed O'Neill and Katie Sagal
1.25 The James Whale Radio Show. Starring a Whale of a quiz. Tel: 0552 481 000
2.25 World of Mouth. Poetry with John Hegley
3.30 Raw Power. The best rock videos 4.00 Cinema Attractions
4.30 Sit Ties. Presented by Andy Stegall and Liz Wickham
5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 Channel 4 News
12.05 The Parliament Programme
12.30 Business Daily
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 The Complete Skier. Tips for beginners and experts (r)



Two men and a telephone: Fonda, left, and Ameche (2.30pm)

2.30 Film: The Story of Alexander Graham Bell (1939, b/w). Entertaining biopic starring Don Ameche as the Scottish-born inventor who, after having to struggle to make ends meet and nearly losing the woman he loves, finally realises his vision and invents the telephone. With Loretta Young and Henry Fonda. Directed by Irving Cummings
4.20 Home is the Best. Yugoslav animator Josko Marusic's surreal tale of a day which started badly
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whitley hosts another game of words and numbers. With Martin Jarvis in the dictionary corner
5.00 Not on Sunday. Ronald Eysen reports on the idiosyncratic spirituality of Stanley Spencer's "Church of Me", and looks at four of his most famous paintings with Spencer's biographer Kenneth Pope. Theo Sowa steps inside a circle of mirrors to examine the ancient Indian rites of North American shamans as practised in north London. And in Kent the Burrowsdown Christian Health Centre brings together spiritual and conventional treatments in an attempt to redefine what "feeling" really means
5.30 Sumo. Starting a new series of the popular ritualistic sport, featuring such personalities as the Dump Truck, the Sea Slug, the Typhoon and the Bulldog. With Lyall Watson
6.00 Happy Days: Hollywood. In the first of a three-part story, Hollywood beckons Fonzie (Henry Winkler) when he is discovered by a talent scout
6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are Julian Clary, and country and western singer Joe Ely
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext)
7.50 First Reaction. Film critic Anne Wilson previews the film *Cyberpunks*, part of the ICA's science-fiction season. Weather
8.00 Brookside. Gritty soap from the Liverpool suburbs. (Teletext)
8.30 Traveling. In his alternative guide for the traveller, Robert Elms finds out what services the travel agent can offer. Alan Coran takes a day trip to Budapest
9.00 Cheers: Me Always Liked You Best. First-rate comedy from the staff and patrons of Boston's most famous bar. (Teletext)
9.30 The Great Plant Collections. Bressingham Gardens, Norfolk. Roy Lancaster visits Alan Bloom's six-acre garden. Containing over 5,000 species and varieties of hardy plants, it is the largest collection of its kind in Britain (Teletext)
10.00 The Golden Girls: All Bets Off. Humour with the jolly geriatrics. Dorothy (Bea Arthur) confesses that she used to have a gambling problem. (Teletext)
10.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? Clive Anderson chairs another bout of spontaneity as provided by the inventive wit of Mike McShane, Paul Merton, Sandi Toksvig and Jim Sweeney
11.00 The World. Includes interviews with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, and Carol Wheeler. Soul it Soul's former lead singer, performs her latest single. Presented by Amanda de Cadenet, Terry Christian and Michelle Collins
12.00 Channel 4 News Midnight Special. The latest reports from the Gulf. Ends at 2.00am

ANGLIA

As London except 1.20pm-1.30 The Rembrandt (Richard Todd) 5.00-5.30 Kate and Joe 6.00pm-6.25 Home and Away 6.30-6.50 News 7.00-7.15 The Young Doctors 7.25-7.40 The Young Doctors 7.45-7.55 The Young Doctors 7.55-8.05 The Young Doctors 8.05-8.15 The Young Doctors 8.15-8.25 The Young Doctors 8.25-8.35 The Young Doctors 8.35-8.45 The Young Doctors 8.45-8.55 The Young Doctors 8.55-9.05 The Young Doctors 9.05-9.15 The Young Doctors 9.15-9.25 The Young Doctors 9.25-9.35 The Young Doctors 9.35-9.45 The Young Doctors 9.45-9.55 The Young Doctors 9.55-10.05 The Young Doctors 10.05-10.15 The Young Doctors 10.15-10.25 The Young Doctors 10.25-10.35 The Young Doctors 10.35-10.45 The Young Doctors 10.45-10.55 The Young Doctors 10.55-11.05 The Young Doctors 11.05-11.15 The Young Doctors 11.15-11.25 The Young Doctors 11.25-11.35 The Young Doctors 11.35-11.45 The Young Doctors 11.45-11.55 The Young Doctors 11.55-12.05 The Young Doctors 12.05-12.15 The Young Doctors 12.15-12.25 The Young Doctors 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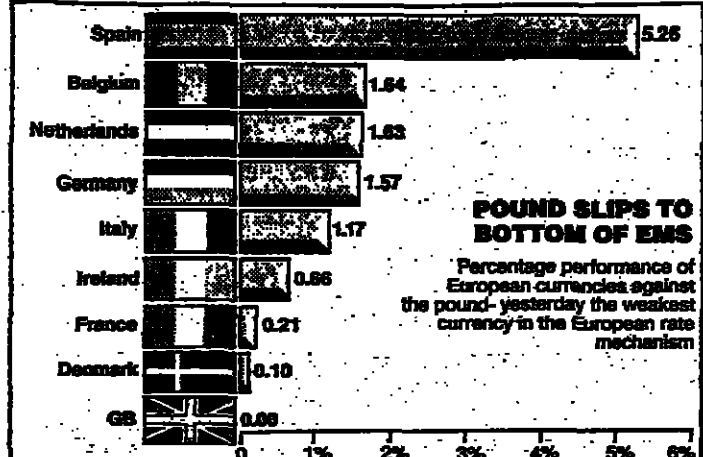
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Business Editor
John Bell

BUSINESS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1 1991

Bundesbank rate rise rules out early interest cut in Britain



By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION by the Bundesbank to raise its key lending rates caught the markets off guard and threatened to maintain upward pressure on interest rates across Europe just as economic slowdown spreads.

The German central bank's move comes at a politically and economically unwelcome moment for recession-bound Britain, as it almost certainly removed any scope that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, might have had for an early cut in base rates.

City economists now believe that despite the steep economic decline highlighted by the Confed-

eration of British industry trends survey this week, there will be no opportunity to ease base rates before the Budget on March 19.

The Bundesbank's announcement, after the fortnightly council meeting, said that, effective from today, the discount rate would be raised from 6 per cent to 6.5 per cent, with the Lombard rate rising from 8.5 per cent to 9 per cent.

This was the first increase in the discount rate since October 5, 1989, when the move triggered a wave of increases throughout Europe, forcing Britain to raise base rates to 15 per cent.

The response this time, however, with Europe's economies now showing highly divergent performance, was

more muted and much more mixed.

The Netherlands and Austria, which have pegged their currencies tightly to the mark, also raised their rates. Others in the so-called "hard core" group of the European exchange-rate mechanism could move today.

Britain, France, and others in need of lower, not higher, interest rates, meanwhile showed no inclination to match the Bundesbank, encouraged by the financial markets' resilience to the move.

The pound and other leading currencies, fell against the mark immediately, with sterling shedding over a penny before stabilising at about DM2.9130. At

the close, however, it was nearly two and a half pence down at DM2.9022, compared with its effective ERM floor of DM2.88.

Keith Skooc, chief economist at James Capel, commented that the Bundesbank decision made "very clear who is in charge of European monetary policy".

Karl Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank president, said there was an urgent need to re-establish a proper differential between money market interest rates and the Lombard rate, at which the Bundesbank lends short-term funds against securities. Lombard has fallen below money market rates, encouraging banks to take advantage of cheaper money. Herr Pöhl

sought to underline that, as with its last rate increase in November, the move was largely technical and undramatic, as it sought to bring official lending rates into line with market rates.

Glenn Davies, chief economist at Credit Lyonnais, noted, however, that validating market rates last time had led to a half-point rise a few months later.

Herr Pöhl said that if other nations did not want to realign their currencies, then they would have to suffer the consequences of higher interest rates. A "softening of the mark" would not help EMS stability.

Comment, page 21

Woman to join ICI board

ICI, the industrial and chemicals company, has appointed its first female board director. She is Ellen Schneider-Lenne, aged 49, a banker who is on the board of managing directors at Deutsche Bank. Miss Schneider-Lenne joins the board, along with Sir Antony Pilkington, the chairman of Pilkington, on March 1.

Sir Denis Henderson, ICI's chairman, said: "I am pleased that her appointment means that for the first time ICI has a woman on its board".

Sir Alex Jarratt, chairman of Smiths Industries, and Shoichi Saba, chief executive of Toshiba Corporation, will retire from the ICI board at the end of the annual meeting on April 26.

Denting the image, page 21

Ford Sellar falls

Ford Sellar Morris, the former high-flying property trader, has suffered a 58 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £5.01 million in the half year to end-October due to the collapse in the commercial property market. The company has cancelled its interim dividend (2.5p) in an effort to reduce debts.

Misys drops

Pre-tax profits at Misys, the computer services and systems group, fell 70 per cent to £1.5 million for the six months to end-November. Turnover was down 12 per cent to £33.9 million with business sales to new customers down by a quarter. The interim dividend is held at 2.10p.

THE ROUNDUP

US dollar 1.9685 (+0.0060)
German mark 2.9022 (-0.0245)
Exchange index 94.2 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1697.9 (+11.4)
FT-SE 100 2170.3 (+17.7)
New York Dow Jones 2716.83 (+3.71)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23293.14 (-116.47)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 14%
3-month interbank 13 1/4-13 3/4%
3-month single bill 13 1/4-13 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 9 1/4%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 6 1/8-6 1/4%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.9685
£ DM2.9022
£ Sfr2.4094
£ FF9.8686
£ Yen23.30
£ ECU20.7022
£ ECU14.2195

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$369.60 pm \$369.00
close \$368.80-367.40 (£186.60-187.10)
New York
CME \$368.75-368.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$20.10 bid (\$19.80)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.50	2.44
Austria	20.75	20.75
Belgium	21.50	21.50
Canada	58.75	58.75
Denmark	11.75	11.75
Finland	7.44	6.99
France	3.045	2.945
Germany	3.91	3.91
Greece	15.75	14.85
Hong Kong	1.145	1.075
Ireland	2.50	2.50
Italy	27.50	27.50
Japan	3.425	3.215
Netherlands	11.91	11.21
Norway	3.98	3.98
Portugal	5.55	4.95
South Africa	11.50	10.71
Spain	16.50	16.50
Sweden	11.50	10.71
Switzerland	2.50	2.45
Turkey	2.05	1.85
USA	2.05	1.85
Venezuela	22.00	22.00

Failure of northern stores group puts 3,500 jobs under threat

Receivers in at Lewis's after bank pulls plug

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Lewis's Group, the country's leading regional department store group, has gone into receivership after the National Westminster Bank withdrew its banking facilities.

The failure of the group yesterday puts 3,500 jobs at risk and has repercussions for a number of suppliers.

The group, which has no connection with The John Lewis Partnership, was a management buyout from Sears, and has 12 department stores and sales of £170 million a year. The group's liabilities are said to total tens of millions of pounds. Lewis's is the biggest retail failure since Lowndes Queensway went into receivership in August.

Stores in Manchester, Birmingham, Blackpool, Glasgow, Hanley, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Oxford, Preston, Stoke and Thurrock stayed closed, and Grant Thornton, the accountant, was appointed joint administrative receiver.

Allan Griffiths, of Grant Thornton's Manchester office, said the receiver intended to re-open the stores tomorrow. The receiver is attempting to sell the chain as a going concern and has received calls from interested parties.

The position on redundancies was not yet clear but Mr Griffiths said: "Inevitably

there may be some redundancies. The retail trade has suffered because of the recession. The National Westminster Bank withdrew support from Lewis's after wages paid this week put the company over the cash limit."

The relationship between Lewis's and its banker appears to have been strained in recent weeks. Earlier this week, a Lewis's spokesman said the group had £13.5 million borrowings and was not in danger of breaking any of the covenants on its loan agreements. The group said it had net assets of £25 million, largely made up of the freehold properties of the Birmingham and Preston stores. Some analysts believe these valuations are out of date.

James Fyfe, Lewis's chief executive, who this week denied the group had any problems and forecast profits of more than £5 million, said yesterday: "I am surprised by the manner and speed with which the bank withdrew its facilities. Our task now is to do all we can to protect our 3,500 loyal staff while maximising the position for our creditors. I believe this would have been best served by administration rather than receivership."

NatWest refused to comment on Mr Fyfe's criticism of the bank but a spokesman for

Grant Thornton said NatWest, which is believed to be the sole bank, allowed Lewis's to overrun its overdraft by paying staff this month. He said payments to outstanding creditors would have extended Lewis's "way beyond its banking facilities".

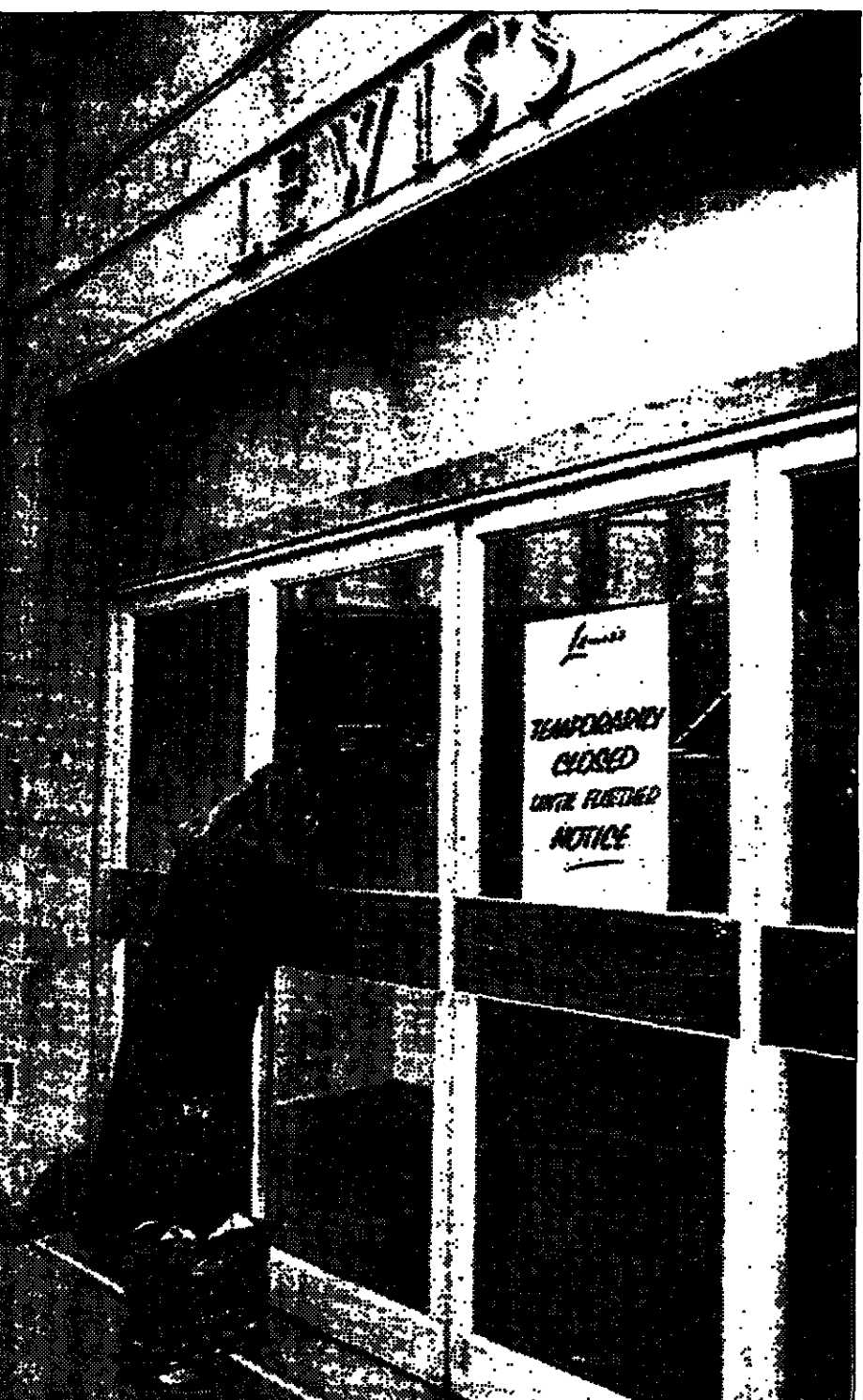
Lewis's was part of a £73 million management buyout from Sears in 1988. Immediately after the buyout, the group instituted an £80 million sales and leaseback agreement with Capital & Counties, the property company.

The property deal should have protected the group from the worst of the recession but Lewis's spent money expanding the chain. Mr Fyfe has said he would open four more stores in the next two years.

Lewis's interest charges were £3.5 million a year. Mr Fyfe also took a £2.5 million stake in A Goldberg, the retail group that went into receivership last year.

Lewis's Distribution Service and Lewis Key, a sales promotion company, have been put into receivership along with Fletland Investments, the holding company. Lewis's Travel, the group's holiday shop, has not yet gone into receivership.

Lewis's was started by David Lewis in Liverpool in 1856. It was taken over in 1965 by Charles Clow and became part of Sears.



Closed for business: a shopper in Liverpool yesterday finds the Lewis's store shut

Germans trim market advances

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

SHARE rallies across Europe were halted by the surprise decision to raise interest rates in Germany.

In London, the FT-SE 100 index closed 17.7 points up at 2,170.3 after reaching 2,182.1 just before the German announcement.

Commodities remained depressed as the land battle continued on the border between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

North Sea Brent Oil for March delivery rose 64 cents to \$20.25. One broker said that nobody knew what to do in present market conditions and that very little oil had been traded.

London gold, unsettled by reports of Middle East and Soviet selling orders, lost a further \$1.50 yesterday to close at \$365.75 an ounce, its lowest level in three months.

The failure of gold to perform well in the face of war has left worldwide investors disappointed, traders said. The FT gold mines index, at 136.2 yesterday, was, for the second time since December, at its lowest level in 13 months. The gold price has been fixed at below \$370 an ounce for three successive fixing sessions, and the continued weakness suggests the metal has further to fall, traders added.

On the London stock market, turnover grew to 833 million shares, helped by several large placings, although conditions remained thin. Dealers said early gains were scored on the back of the overnight rise on Wall Street, buying from continental Europe, and further activity on the futures market. Government securities ended with gains stretching to 1%.

Stock markets, page 23

Yale agrees £330m bid from Williams

By MARTIN WALLER

WILLIAMS Holdings, the conglomerate run by Nigel Rudd and Brian McGowan, is making a £330 million agreed offer for Yale and Valor, the locks and home products group, valuing each Yale share at 254p.

Talk of the deal had been in the market for days and is thought to have prompted a Stock Exchange enquiry. Williams unveiled its terms yesterday, a straight equity swap offering five new shares for every four in Yale topped up with a special second interim dividend of 12.65p a share.

The offer brought an angry reaction from Norman Davis, a former Yale director who has waged a campaign against the management since his departure in 1988. He contrasted the price on offer with

the 330p at which shareholders were asked to put up funds to pay for two American companies, Yale and Nu Tone, in 1988. "I hope that if enough shareholders support me, we can get the board to think again," he said.

Williams has just under 6 per cent of Yale. Williams shares ended 9p up at 225p while Yale was 27 1/2p, up 38p.

Williams has made a pre-tax profits estimate for the year to end-December of £125 million, down from a comparable £148 million after taking in the effect of the flotation of its Pendragon subsidiary in November 1989 but a little ahead of market estimates. It intends a final dividend of 7.25p making 12p for the year.

Wessex and WMI in £125m venture

By MARTIN BARROW

WESSEX Water has stolen a lead on the major privatised water companies looking to diversify into waste disposal by forging an alliance with Waste Management Inc, America's largest waste disposal company.

Wessex and WMI are injecting £125 million into a new joint venture, Wessex Waste Management, which will develop a range of activities from waste collection and recycling to landfill and incineration. Growth will be organic and through acquisition.

Wessex is raising £62.75 million, its share of the total investment, by issuing 18.13 million new B ordinary shares at 346p a share, fully paid, to WMI. These shares will be unlisted, paying a fixed annual dividend of 0.75 per cent on

the issue price, and will convert after seven years into ordinary shares on a one-for-one basis.

After the announcement partly paid Wessex shares rose 29p to 317p, which excludes a final instalment of 70p.

WMI will also be granted options over 6.36 million Wessex ordinary shares, to be exercised between mid-1996 and the end of 1999 at between 643p and 904p, provided unspecified profit targets are met by the joint venture company. The trigger date for the options can be brought forward if an offer is made for Wessex on or after January 1995, when the government's protective shareholding lapses.

Tempos, page 21

Not as safe as money in the bank

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CLYDESDALE Bank is facing an enquiry by the Banking Ombudsman after a group of its customers lost up to £50,000 through the bank's cash dispensers.

The bank has said that one of its engineers is helping police enquiries into unauthorised withdrawals from automatic telling machines. The enquiry is expected by bankers to renew fears among customers about the safety of automatic banking systems.

Clydesdale has refunded between £10,000 and £50,000 to about 40 customers who suffered losses during the past 12 months. Several have complained to the ombudsman, who is examining their cases.

This is the first reported case of losses

from within a bank through its cash dispensers, although all banks receive complaints from customers about having money wrongly debited from an account.

The banks say most of these complaints can be traced to unauthorised use of a card and have insisted that cash dispensing systems are safe as long as personal codes are kept secret.

Clydesdale said withdrawals were made with information obtained during regular services of its cash machines. A spokesman said the bank had now closed "a loophole" in its security procedures.

He added that only a few of the bank's 300 dispensers were affected.

Clydesdale has until now kept its cash machines running during services, allowing staff to see customers' account details and code numbers. Most other banks switch off their machines and remove

their cash during maintenance work. Bankers are worried that news of a possible fraud could deter customers from using their machines, which are an important element of cost-cutting programmes. Two in five people in Britain own at least one automatic cash card.

Cash machine withdrawals have risen almost tenfold to more than 800 million a year in the past decade, as cheque withdrawals have fallen. Cash machine transactions are expected to reach 1.4 billion a year by the year 2000.

A rival bank said the case showed that "cash machines are defraudable". It added that confidence in the banking system may have been eroded, but pointed out the usefulness of cash machines.

Barclays Bank said it would not be affected by the theft because it had "extremely strict security procedures".

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Goodhead down

Goodhead Group, the printer and free newspaper publisher, said taxable profits fell from £2.8 million to £706,000 in the six months to November. Earnings fell from 10.2p a share to 2.3p. The interim dividend has been cut from 1.75p to 0.5p.

Fischer at New

Arthur Siskind, who has worked closely with the group

Tempus, page 21

Bob Rogerson, RHM's finance director, said: "During most of that time, we would have been happier to operate with a more normal institutional shareholder base, so we are quite pleased. This will not change our strategy but should help us tactically."

The slump in the commercial property and smaller commercial markets has pushed London Securities into a pre-tax loss of £3.4 million for the six months to end-September (£1.52 million profit). The interim dividend is cancelled (0.5p).

The property trader and venture capital investor said there was virtually no market for sales at sensible prices. Investment profits fell 84 per cent to £17,000, while costs more than tripled to £3.99 million. There was a £1 million provision on the company's largest commercial development in Holborn, London, which is developed but remains unlet.

PRE-TAX losses at Joseph Hoyle & Sons, the wool spinning and cloth manufacturing company, deepened from £12,400 to £233,000 in the half year to September. Turnover fell from £3.45 million to £3.15 million. The loss per share surged from 1.84p to 29.45p. Once again, there is no interim dividend. The company said that trading conditions continue to be difficult.

CORPORATE Services, the recruitment, outdoor posters and office furniture group quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market unveiled pre-tax profits of £136,000 in the six months to end-September, against a loss of £164,000, although last time's figures are not directly comparable.

Jeffrey Fowler, the chairman, said the current financial position is strong, with about £3.5 million cash. Group turnover grew from £4.9 million to £6.12 million. Earnings per share were 0.18p, against a 0.12p loss previously. There is no interim dividend.

1990/91						1990/91						1990/91					
High/Low		Price	Change	%	P/E	High/Low		Price	Change	%	P/E	High/Low		Price	Change	%	P/E
Company						Company						Company					
174	101	ASB Market	39	10	25	28	101	Chubb	102	10	19	31	101	Scotlady	102	10	19
175	101	ATA Software	37	10	25	29	102	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	32	102	Scotlady	102	10	19
176	101	Avon	37	10	25	30	103	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	33	103	Scotlady	102	10	19
177	101	Avon	37	10	25	31	104	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	34	104	Scotlady	102	10	19
178	101	Avon	37	10	25	32	105	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	35	105	Scotlady	102	10	19
179	101	Avon	37	10	25	33	106	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	36	106	Scotlady	102	10	19
180	101	Avon	37	10	25	34	107	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	37	107	Scotlady	102	10	19
181	101	Avon	37	10	25	35	108	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	38	108	Scotlady	102	10	19
182	101	Avon	37	10	25	36	109	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	39	109	Scotlady	102	10	19
183	101	Avon	37	10	25	37	110	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	40	110	Scotlady	102	10	19
184	101	Avon	37	10	25	38	111	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	41	111	Scotlady	102	10	19
185	101	Avon	37	10	25	39	112	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	42	112	Scotlady	102	10	19
186	101	Avon	37	10	25	40	113	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	43	113	Scotlady	102	10	19
187	101	Avon	37	10	25	41	114	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	44	114	Scotlady	102	10	19
188	101	Avon	37	10	25	42	115	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	45	115	Scotlady	102	10	19
189	101	Avon	37	10	25	43	116	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	46	116	Scotlady	102	10	19
190	101	Avon	37	10	25	44	117	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	47	117	Scotlady	102	10	19
191	101	Avon	37	10	25	45	118	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	48	118	Scotlady	102	10	19
192	101	Avon	37	10	25	46	119	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	49	119	Scotlady	102	10	19
193	101	Avon	37	10	25	47	120	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	50	120	Scotlady	102	10	19
194	101	Avon	37	10	25	48	121	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	51	121	Scotlady	102	10	19
195	101	Avon	37	10	25	49	122	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	52	122	Scotlady	102	10	19
196	101	Avon	37	10	25	50	123	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	53	123	Scotlady	102	10	19
197	101	Avon	37	10	25	51	124	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	54	124	Scotlady	102	10	19
198	101	Avon	37	10	25	52	125	Chubb (UK)	102	10	19	55	125	Scotlady	102	10	19
199	101	Avon	37	10	25	53	126	Chubb (UK)									

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 94.2 (day's range 94.2-94.5)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Rate Dates for Jan 31	Range	Close	1 mo 1 day	3 month
New York	1.9900-1.9910	1.9850-1.9870	1.06-1.07	0.98-0.99
London	2.2748-2.2836	2.2825-2.2836	0.53-0.47p	0.85-0.90p
Amsterdam	3.2734-3.2834	3.2734-3.2780	1.1-1.1p	0.9-0.9p
Frankfurt	5.61-5.62	5.61-5.62	0.6-0.6p	0.5-0.5p
Copenhagen	11.6869-11.2081	11.6869-11.1822	31-31.3p	0.9-0.9p
Oslo	1.0358-1.0360	1.0358-1.0360	28-28p	0.8-0.8p
Paris	2.670-2.656	2.670-2.656	0.7-0.7p	0.6-0.6p
London	2.58-2.58.42	2.55-2.58.73	11-11.75p	14-14.00p
London	182.18-182.18	182.18-182.17	per 20s	18-18.10p
London	217.23-218.45	217.23-218.45	11-11.75p	14-14.00p
Oslo	11.3677-11.4326	11.3677-11.3623	21-21.4p	74-74.6p
Oslo	1.8705-1.8705	1.8705-1.8705	31-31.3p	0.9-0.9p
Stockholm	10.5720-10.1935	10.5720-10.0872	8-8.1p	2-1.94p
Tokyo	26.75-26.82	26.14-26.64	11-11.75p	34-34.3p
20.00-20.00	20.1155-20.027	20.1155-20.027	11-11.75p	34-34.3p
Zurich	2.4672-2.4622	2.4673-2.4715	11-11.75p	2-1.94p

Source: Eustel
Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

MONETARY RATES (%)

Base Rate: Cheating Banks 14	Finland Has 14				
Discount Market Loans: Overnight 14%	Low 13	Week Forward: 15%			
Treasury Bills (One-Day-Buy: 2 m, 3 m, 13 m) ^{1/2}	3 m, 13 m) ^{1/2}	3 m, 13 m) ^{1/2}	3 m, 13 m) ^{1/2}	3 m, 13 m) ^{1/2}	3 m, 13 m) ^{1/2}
Prime Bank Bills (One-1/2 m)	13 m)	3 m)	6 m)	12 m)	
Treasury Bills (One-1/2 m)	13 m)	3 m)	6 m)	12 m)	
Commercial (One-month open 14%, closed 14%)	14 m)	n/a	13 m)	13 m)	12 m)
Local Authority Deposits	14 m)	n/a	13 m)	13 m)	12 m)
Sterling Deposits	6-14 1/4 14 1/4 13 1/4 13 1/4	14-16 1/4	13 1/4-15 1/4	12 1/4-13 1/4	12 1/4-13 1/4
Other Cash:	9.55-10.87	7.00-8.37	6.95-8.00	7.10-7.35	
Swiss Banking Society (Cdn):	14 1/4-15 1/4	14 1/4-15 1/4	13 1/4-15 1/4	12 1/4-13 1/4	

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Cash
British	6 1/4-6 1/4	6 1/4-6 1/4	7 1/4-6 1/4	7 1/4-6 1/4	6 1/4-5 1/4
German	10-10 1/4	10-10 1/4	10-10 1/4	10-10 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4
French	10-10 1/4	10-10 1/4	10-10 1/4	10-10 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4
Swiss	8-7 1/4	8 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/4-8	8 1/4-8	8-7
Italian	8-7 1/4	8 1/4-8	8 1/4-8	8 1/4-8	7 1/4-6 1/4

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Gold	Silver	Palladium	Copper
Gold: Spot \$389.70-370.20	Cheap: \$366.90-367.40	High: \$370.40-370.80	
Low: \$365.50-366.00	Kingsmen: \$368.00-368.00	(£168.00-167.25)	
Silver: Spot \$63.00-60.00	(£45.00-47.50)	Low: \$60.00-60.00	(£40.00-44.50)
Palladium: \$397.75	(£193.75)	Silver: \$34.82	(£4.82)

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	16791-31-16932-2	171910-172920	
Australia dollar	2.6502-2.6512	Singapore	7.2200-7.2220
Bahian dirham	n/a	Sweden	2.8970-2.8980
Bank cruzeiro*	426.80-427.80	Switzerland	1.4789-1.4799
Ceylon rupee	50-50.1p	Taiwan	1.1658-1.1668
French franc	7.055-7.11p	United States	0.5250-0.5250
Guinea dinario	30.90-31.10	Norway	5.6100-5.6100
Hong Kong dollar	16.50-16.52	Denmark	7.1410-7.1410
India rupee	36.91-36.71	West Germany	1.4850-1.4857
Kuwait dirham KD	5.2588-5.2588	Netherlands	1.6700-1.6710
Lebanese pound	6.970-6.980	France	5.0000-5.0000
Mexico peso	3.9765-3.9800	New Zealand	1.6700-1.6710
Yemen rial	3.9765-3.9800	Italy	1.6700-1.6710
Saudi Arabian rial	3.9765-3.9800	Japan (Com)	30.57-30.62
Singapore dollar	3.3925-3.3942	Thailand (Com)	

HIGH LOW Company				Price	Open	Close	Settle	Vol	P/L
102	78	84	84	78	78	78	78	114	23.25
103	79	85	85	79	79	79	79	114	23.25
104	80	86	86	80	80	80	80	114	23.25
105	81	87	87	81	81	81	81	114	23.25
106	82	88	88	82	82	82	82	114	23.25
107	83	89	89	83	83	83	83	114	23.25
108	84	90	90	84	84	84	84	114	23.25
109	85	91	91	85	85	85	85	114	23.25
110	86	92	92	86	86	86	86	114	23.25
111	87	93	93	87	87	87	87	114	23.25
112	88	94	94	88	88	88	88	114	23.25
113	89	95	95	89	89	89	89	114	23.25
114	90	96	96	90	90	90	90	114	23.25
115	91	97	97	91	91	91	91	114	23.25
116	92	98	98	92	92	92	92	114	23.25
117	93	99	99	93	93	93	93	114	23.25
118	94	100	100	94	94	94	94	114	23.25
119	95	101	101	95	95	95	95	114	23.25
120	96	102	102	96	96	96	96	114	23.25
121	97	103	103	97	97	97	97	114	23.25
122	98	104	104	98	98	98	98	114	23.25
123	99	105	105	99	99	99	99	114	23.25
124	100	106	106	100	100	100	100	114	23.25
125	101	107	107	101	101	101	101	114	23.25
126	102	108	108	102	102	102	102	114	23.25
127	103	109	109	103	103	103	103	114	23.25
128	104	110	110	104	104	104	104	114	23.25
129	105	111	111	105	105	105	105	114	23.25
130	106	112	112	106	106	106	106	114	23.25
131	107	113	113	107	107	107	107	114	23.25
132	108	114	114	108	108	108	108	114	23.25
133	109	115	115	109	109	109	109	114	23.25
134	110	116	116	110	110	110	110	114	23.25
135	111	117	117	111	111	111	111	114	23.25
136	112	118	118	112	112	112	112	114	23.25
137	113	119	119	113	113	113	113	114	23.25
138	114	120	120	114	114	114	114	114	23.25
139	115	121	121	115	115	115	115	114	23.25
140	116	122	122	116	116	116	116	114	23.25
141	117	123	123	117	117	117	117	114	23.25
142	118	124	124	118	118	118	118	114	23.25
143	119	125	125	119	119	119	119	114	23.25
144	120	126	126	120	120	120	120	114	23.25
145	121	127	127	121	121	121	121	114	23.25
146	122	128	128	122	122	122	122	114	23.25
147	123	129	129	123	123	123	123	114	23.25
148	124	130							

Cash piles are going out of style

COMMENT

A rights issue from Tesco, the successful placing of almost 30 per cent of Ranks Hovis McDougall and an agreed all-shares deal between Williams Holdings and Yale and Valor: hardly a return to the palmy days of 1987 but at least an indication that corporate life continues in some form.

The institutions remain awash with cash, and Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams, is not the only one to forecast a returning appetite for equity. The government and its advisers apparently feel the same, as witness the apparent determination to push ahead with the electricity generators sale, the Gulf notwithstanding.

These few swallows by no means amount to a summer. But they do suggest that institutions are at long last prepared to anticipate the next upward turn in the equity market, and to commit their cash holdings to sensible and cautious equity offerings. If so, corporate activity in the stock market may return strongly this year. Williams, itself feeling the chill of the consumer spending downturn, is using the

opportunity of an even more pronounced slump in Yale's fortunes to make its move. Full-year estimates from Williams, showing an improvement in second half margins, indicate that it is a little ahead of its quarry in taking the appropriate cost-cutting measures.

Yale is not the best-regarded stock in its sector, or even the most followed, to judge by the number of conglomerates analysts caught on the hop by yesterday's news. For Williams the move should prove to be a well-timed one. Despite the lack of obvious business synergy, there are good opportunities for Williams' financial wizards to move in, and cut costs by managing the businesses more aggressively. That there were just three executive members of the Yale board typifies the loose leash on which its outlying operations were kept. Mr Rudd is insistent that the acquisition will not be earnings-dilutive this year.

The extent and nature of pre-acquisition provisions and any special tax advantages available are not known, but his forecast displays rare courage, with the financial year just a month old and the recession in America still deepening.

There may be some earnings dilution, but not much. Nomura is looking for £173.3 million pre-tax from the combined group in calendar 1991 and 23.8p in earnings. Its former forecast was for 24.5p from Williams in the old form.

The price on offer would certainly not have looked generous in those self-same palmy days before the crash. Yale's interim figures were sufficiently awful to make full-year predictions a less than precise science, but Williams is probably offering about 12.5 times

earnings in the year to end-March. Although Yale shareholders might as well wait around as long as possible to see if a rival offer is shaken loose, the market reckoning is that Williams is home and dry.

Helping hand

The Bundesbank's clever wrong-footing of the market might have done Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, a very big favour.

By bringing official lending rates into line with market rates to ensure the near-total control the Bundesbank likes to exercise over the money supply, the Germans have almost certainly killed off any hopes of an early easing in British base rates. For all the campaigning that John

Major, the prime minister, and his loyal chancellor have done so far this year, the alarming state of the economy continues to persuade many that interest rates have to be cut without delay.

With an economy to correct in time for the next general election, the government had been finding it difficult to convince the markets that sticking firmly to exchange-rate mechanism disciplines could bring the desired political salvation. Having been cornered by its self-inflicted membership of the parity grid, and repeatedly rejecting calls for devaluation, the government had reached a point where it was virtually left waiting for something to turn up.

But on the very day Mr Lamont formally set the Budget date for March 19, a potentially valuable ally, in deep disguise, did indeed turn up. The Bundesbank, for a host of domestic reasons, upped its discount and Lombard rates by

half a point. As the French discovered most usefully in the Eighties, the blame for the interest rate constraints of ERM membership can be placed increasingly in the Germans' lap. This should enable the markets to relax, probably helping a more favourable view of sterling.

In the Commons, Mr Lamont restrained himself from commenting on the Bundesbank's interest rate surprise, apart from a modest acknowledgement that the Germans understood British concerns. He was, however, only too glad to re-emphasise the "overwhelming priority" the government was making of keeping the pound squarely inside its ERM bands.

The chancellor repeated his message that the true path to lower interest rates was by following underlying inflation downwards. Meanwhile, Mr Major, has provided extra guidance, saying that to lower interest rates, Britain will have to bring its inflation closer to the rate of its competitors. It all rather sounds like terms once set for ERM entry.

Woman who is denting ICI's hard hat image



Professionalism first: board recruit Ellen Schneider-Lenne

her European banking experience will be beneficial to ICI. She has a good world view and detailed knowledge of Eastern European markets. Neither she nor ICI are pretending her sex is irrelevant but her professionalism comes first.

"There is no difficulty for me in being a woman on the board of a large company," she says. "I've often been the first woman somewhere. When I first came to Britain after a period in the US, I was worried that people here would not accept a woman banker so easily, but if you are professional and can answer people's questions then there is no problem."

But she agrees that women in Britain have come a long way in the last decade. "There are more women in positions of responsibility in treasury and finance departments in the UK than in 1980. It used to be that women had to be much better than a man to receive promotion to senior positions. This is no longer the case. Women have attained higher positions in London than they have in Germany," she says.

She is aware that the biggest obstacle facing most women's career progression is family responsibilities. "Men do not have to make that choice," she is unmarried and says she is grateful that she has never had to face the decision whether to have children, but she has watched friends agonise over the choice. "We can remove some of the difficulties women face in progressing in their careers and fulfilling their family responsibilities, but the basic decision is something that will never change unless our society changes radically."

But she is optimistic about the outlook for women in industry. "Women tend not to be mollycoddled. They are every bit as good as men and simply have to compete on the same basis," she says.

GILLIAN BOWDITCH

Wessex taps into waste

TEMPUS

WESSEX Water is proving to be the surprise package of the sector. Having unexpectedly topped the interim dividend chart the company has pulled off an intriguing deal which will give it a major presence in waste disposal with negligible risk to its core business of water supply.

Any number of companies formed a queue to lure Waste Management Inc into partnership but Wessex got there first. It has also talked the Americans into putting up the entire £125 million joint venture will have at its disposal.

The short-term return on WMT's investment will be modest. The new B ordinary unlisted shares it receives in return for the £62.75 million provided to cover Wessex's share of the venture have a fixed annual preference dividend of 0.75 per cent on the issue price for seven years. Wessex, which has substantial experience in waste water treatment but limited knowledge of other forms of waste management, taps into WMT's know-how.

Wessex is prepared to give WMT 19.3 per cent of its enlarged equity base, albeit over nine years, but otherwise it is difficult to see why WMT chose Wessex in preference to a company with existing interests in waste disposal.

Until the new waste company takes shape it is impossible to assess which party gains most out of the deal. Wessex shareholders are being asked to approve a profit-related option agreement which could account for 4.31

per cent of WMT's ultimate shareholding in their company without any indication of what those profit targets might be.

Undoubtedly, the deal has substantial long-term potential but it is difficult to justify a 29p rise in Wessex's partly-paid shares to 317p. Adjusting for the final 70p instalment, this leaves the shares on a prospective p/e of seven, not cheap for a utility stock. With all takeover premium now effectively removed from the shares this may be the last opportunity for some time to cash in some profits.

Misys

BARELY 18 months ago, 1991 profit forecasts of up to £19 million were being bandied around for Misys, the computer services and systems group headed by former Hanson man Kevin Lomax. Figures for the half year to the end of November suggest £5 million may be nearer the mark.

Interim pre-tax profits of £1.5 million, a 70 per cent drop, are not quite as bad as they look as they include £571,000 of exceptional charges related to severance payments and the cost of moving to the main market.

Like all companies in its sector, Misys has been hit by the decision of customers to defer their IT expenditure until the budgets justify it.

New business orders from new customers are down by a quarter and turnover has fallen by 12 per cent to £33.9 million. However, the short-fall in product sales has to some extent been made up by a 25 per cent increase in recurring service income. In addition a vigorous cost-cutting campaign has taken £5 million of overheads, including 200 employees, out of the company, enabling Misys to improve its gross margins on existing business.

Some of the company's problems are self-imposed, however. The rapid pace of its acquisition growth since 1987 will not help Misys weather the storm, though the ungated balance sheet is a bonus in hard times.

If Misys does make the expected £5 million, then the shares are trading on a price/earnings ratio of about 7, not expensive, but not particularly cheap either, given the prospects for the industry. With cash in the bank, Misys is at least likely to be around for the upturn. However, analysts point out that the IT cycle is not as well established and predictable as, say, the construction industry cycle and the recovery may be a long time coming.

Domino Printing

DOMINO Printing Sciences is one of those rare companies

not quivering at the thought of recession and hard times in 1991. It is back on a growth track after two years of setbacks and knocking spots off the competition.

The group, which code marks a host of consumer products, achieved a 20.8 per cent rise in turnover to £45.9 million in the year ended October 31, a 29.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £6.09 million, and a gain in net earnings from 17.23p a share to 20.54p a share.

In the first quarter of this financial year sales are already up more than 20 per cent from last time. Domino boasts a solid order book, with more than half its business repeat orders, and is virtually unganged. A delayed two-acre property sale should bring in £500,000 shortly, which will largely eliminate year-end net borrowings of £700,000.

Margins in America have yet to reach Domino's aims. But it seems relaxed at the prospect of Japan's Hitachi expanding into its American markets later this year and possibly into European markets in 1992.

The tax charge rose from 26 per cent to 31 per cent last year and will edge up to the 35 per cent level now that tax losses in America have largely been used up. But on pre-tax profits hopes of £7.3 million this year, net earnings rise to 23.6p a share, allowing the dividend to be increased from 5.2p to 6p a share.

At 186p and on a prospective p/e of 7.9, Domino is not without attraction in current uncertain markets.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Colman makes his mark

THE vice chairman of the United Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall has a new day job. Jeremy Colman, aged 42, who left County NatWest's corporate finance department in October and has spent the time since doing a crash course in German, has started work at Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm. Although not an accountant, he has been made a partner and is employed in the privatisation services department. A renowned privatisation expert, he was an assistant secretary in the Treasury and, as such, handled the privatisation of British Airways, BAA, National Bus Company and British Shipbuilders. He was also responsible for the Treasury's control of British Steel, British Rail and London Regional Transport and, before that, kept a Treasury eye on the finances of the NHS. In this latter role he crossed paths with his wife, Pat Stewart, a civil servant in the department of health. "I have been working in privatisation for seven years," says Colman, "but at County I found my role a bit limited because, although we did some preliminary advice, we were really only interested in doing the deal. At the Treasury I had been involved in everything, from preliminary planning to doing the deal and then clearing up the mess afterwards. My role at Price Waterhouse will be much

more akin to that." A member of the committee of the Oxford and Cambridge Club for more than 20 years - he read maths at Cambridge - Colman proudly declares that it is "one of the best managed clubs in London, it does not look seedy and rundown." But he admits that some of its members preferred the slightly seedier look. "There are some people who regret that the chairs don't collapse as much as they once did."

Women's issue

THE Square Mile, as many waistcoated partners know only too well, is no longer the male bastion it used to be. And at last, the 164,000 females who work in everything from banking to insurance services are about to receive the recognition they deserve - with the launch in mid-May of yet another new

magazine exclusively for the City. But the new title, *City Magazine*, will have to battle it out with *SQ Mile*, a glossy rival to be launched in three months' time by Simon Brookes, youngest son of Trafalgar House chairman Sir Nigel Brookes - as detailed in the *City Diary* this week.

"There are almost as many women as men in the City and this is a fact that needs to be recognised, with a mixture of articles to satisfy all tastes," says Alastair Fairley, *City Magazine's* publisher, who kept into action to let us know of his existence when he read about young Brookes's efforts. Fairley, an ex-*Evening Standard* journalist, also says that much of the gloom about job cuts in the securities industry has been overdone. He points to a recent survey by Jonathan Wren, the headhunter, which shows that the average salary in the Square Mile last summer was £24,717, with salaries of up to £100,000 still up for grabs. Cynics in the City, however, might conclude that both parties were talking their own books.

Smell of success

TAKING the whole idea of private enterprise to unscalped heights, the town of Grimsby in Humberside has launched a campaign to transform itself into the leading holiday resort in Europe. And deciding, not unwisely, that its main asset is fish - the town is, after all, well-known for its supplies of cod and haddock - Grimsby

Council has struck upon the idea of a mail-order campaign with a difference to convey the delights of Cussons and Imperial Leather, has every reason to be pleased with itself. For the soap manufacturer has yet again successfully picked Budget Day - March 19, it was announced yesterday - as the day on which to publish its interim report. So uncanny has the group's knack of predicting the date of the event become - it has released its interims on five out of the past six Budget days - that many City analysts now regularly use it as a guide when deciding when and where to release their Budget preamble. Alan Whittaker, PZ's finance director, modestly insists that it is all "just a coincidence" - something he affirmed when the date for the 1991 Budget was successfully predicted in the *City Diary* last October.

Foresight saga

PATERSON Zochonis, the name behind such fragrant delights as Cussons and Imperial Leather, has every reason to be pleased with itself. For the soap manufacturer has yet again successfully picked Budget Day - March 19, it was announced yesterday - as the day on which to publish its interim report. So uncanny has the group's knack of predicting the date of the event become - it has released its interims on five out of the past six Budget days - that many City analysts now regularly use it as a guide when deciding when and where to release their Budget preamble. Alan Whittaker, PZ's finance director, modestly insists that it is all "just a coincidence" - something he affirmed when the date for the 1991 Budget was successfully predicted in the *City Diary* last October.

CAROL LEONARD



"No Hovis for Sir James today, thank you"

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONG KONG
HIGH COURT
MISCELLANEOUS PROCEEDINGS
IN THE MATTER OF
THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF the Companies Ordinance
(Chapter 32)

1991 M.P. No. 81

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, by an Order dated the 21st day of January 1991 made in the above matters, the Court has directed a meeting to be convened of the holders of the shares of HK\$2.50 each in the capital of the above-named The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (hereinafter called "HSBC") for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, approving (with or without modification) a Scheme of Arrangement proposed to be made between HSBC and the holders of its shares of HK\$2.50 each and that such meeting be held at Level 28, 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong, on Tuesday, the 26th day of February 1991 at 2.30 p.m., at which place and time all the holders of the shares of HK\$2.50 each in the capital of HSBC are requested to attend.

A copy of a printed composite document containing the said Scheme of Arrangement and the Explanatory Statement required to be furnished pursuant to section 166A of the above-mentioned Ordinance, together with a form of proxy, can be obtained by any person entitled to attend the said meeting during usual business hours on any day prior to the day appointed for the said meeting (other than a Saturday afternoon, a Sunday or a public holiday) at the offices of HSBC's registrars, Central Registration Hong Kong Limited, Hopewell Centre, 19th Floor, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong, and at the office of the under-mentioned solicitors to HSBC at the address mentioned below.

The said shareholders may vote in person at the said meeting or they may appoint another person, whether a member of HSBC or not, as their proxy to attend and vote in their stead.

In the case of joint holders, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, will be accepted to the exclusion of the vote(s) of the other joint holder(s), and for this purpose seniority will be determined by the order in which the names stand in the Register of Shareholders of HSBC in respect of the relevant joint holding.

It is requested that forms appointing proxies be lodged at the above-mentioned offices of HSBC's registrars, Central Registration Hong Kong Limited, not later than 48 hours before the time appointed for the said meeting, but if forms are not so lodged they may be handed to the Chairman at the said meeting.

By the said Order the Court has appointed William Purves or, failing him, John Malcolm Gray or, failing him, Frank Riddell Frame to act as Chairman of the said meeting and has directed the Chairman to report the result thereof to the Court.

The said Scheme of Arrangement will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Court.

Norton Rose
in association with
Johnson Stokes & Master
17th Floor, Prince's Building,
10 Chater Road,
Hong Kong
Solicitors for The Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation Limited

Dated the 1st day of February 1991

WALL STREET

Dow under early pressure

The FT-SE 100 index was almost 30 points higher before the Bundesbank made its move. After an initial shake-out that saw its lead cut to just 6 points, share prices quickly recovered their poise. The index eventually ended 17.7 up at 2,170.3. Turnover grew

Wessex Water leapt 29p to 317p after announcing plans to form a joint venture with the American group Waste Management. Wessex will raise £62.75 million by the issue to Waste Management of

BAT Industries jumped 15p to 622p in heavy turnover that saw 4 million shares change hands. Dealers said there had been heavy selling of the shares in New York at about the 620p level, but most of this had been absorbed in London.

MICHAEL CLARK

23,293.14 with 330 million shares traded.

□ **Frankfurt** — Shares fell from their highs after news of the rise in interest rates. However, the Dax index closed 19.35 points higher at 1,420.08.

□ **Hong Kong** — The Hang Seng index gained 43.78 points to 3,244.67.

[illegible]

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

[illegible]

RIGHTS ISSUES

Simon	34%	55%	Omni Etc	17%	17%	Wm-W-Lamb	69%	70%
Emerson Et	42%	42	Oracle Sys	9	9%	Xerox	46%	43%

London Traded Options and World Market Indices
have been held out owing to lack of space.

London Traded Options and World Market Indices
have been held out owing to lack of space.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Microsoft

Microsoft is the world leader in microcomputer software with a product range which includes both applications and operating systems. Some of our well known products include MS-DOS, WINDOWS, OS/2, EXCEL, WORKS and LAN MANAGER.

Microsoft Ireland is responsible for the development and manufacture of the European versions of Microsoft products.

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Application with CV to the Personnel Dept, Microsoft Ireland, Blackthorn Road, Sandford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18, Ireland. Tel: (001) 953826.



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Applicants should be nationals of EUMETSAT Member States. Salaries are attractive and in line with other European Organisations. Official languages of EUMETSAT are English and French.

If you are interested in working for EUMETSAT you should send your application as soon as possible to:

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Applications, giving full details of age, experience, should be made in writing to:

SANDOZ PHARMA LTD, Personnel Department, Ref 1409,
P.O. Box, CH-4002 Basle, Tel. 061 324 7631 (Mrs V. Luginbuhl).

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Application forms are available from:

Civilian Personnel Section, Headquarters AFCEM, PO Box 270, 6440 AG BRUNSUM, The Netherlands.

Application forms should reach this Office no later than 25th March 1991.

NOTE: This post was advertised in October/November 1988. Those persons who applied then need not re-apply. The successful candidate will be offered a three (3) years definite duration contract.

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Rocker Nick's golden oldies

Kevin Eason on the Pink Floyd drummer who now makes his fortune hiring out classic cars

The scene is typical of any tiny London back street. Rovers, Fords and Vauxhalls stand in front of bay windows and brick archways. Only the engine growl from behind a set of green doors hints that this street hosts cars with a more exotic heritage than the production lines of Dagenham or Birmingham.

The doors open to reveal a bright red Ferrari leaving a small yard and about to have its powers of speed and agility tamed by crawling city traffic.

The humble doorway is the entrance to an Aladdin's cave of motoring, a private collection of cars more often seen in television commercials or films than on the roads. Ten Tenth is a company that supplies cars to the movie-makers, from the Trabant to Formula One racing cars, most of which come from the private collection of Nick Mason.

In loose sweaters and slacks, Mason looks at home in the jumble of spare parts and cars covered in dust sheets. He is better known dressed for the spotlight as the drummer with Pink Floyd, one of the most successful rock groups.

Superstar status brought the wealth that allowed Mason to indulge his motoring fantasies, including racing at Le Mans several times. Playing drums with Pink Floyd is less demanding now, as the group members limit themselves to a record album or tour every few years.



Collectors' items: Nick Mason, the Pink Floyd musician, flanked by a 1935 Lagonda and Trabant, made in the old East Germany

However, cars are an abiding passion. Mason grew up with them, hearing stories of daring on the world's race tracks from his father, Bill, who worked for Shell's film unit. Bill Mason also owned and raced his own 1929 4.5-litre Bentley, now part of the collection. Nick Mason's start was a tiny Austin Chummy held together by a little glue and a lot of love.

Affluence allowed him to buy some of his favourite cars. Today the collection has about 35 cars, from the most exotic Ferrari F40, a model that was changing hands at the world's auctions for £1 million last year, to one of the last ten Trabants made in East Germany.

Some of the cars are raced at

classic events, but the rest might have been hidden from public view. Mason, however, found a market in the photographers and video-makers who needed cars in a variety of shapes and styles for the advertising industry but often had no idea where to get them.

Choosing a name for Britain's most unusual car hire business was easy. Stirling Moss described "ten-tenths" as "that rare, if ever, fleeting moment when a racing driver and his car are at their ultimate limit". Mason loved that evocation of speed and of cars built with grace and beauty in mind, rather than the strictures of mass production.

The storage yard housing much of the collection sports a Bentley Tyrell Ford F1 car rubbing tyre treads with a 1954 Lancia, which Mason rode last year in the eight-day Carrera Panamericana rally across Central America. Under dust sheets are Maseratis and even a 1901 Panhard, which takes part in the London to Brighton run.

Demands from advertisers and film-makers stretch far and wide. For example, Volvo asked Ten Tenth to find an immaculate 1974 Volvo estate for an advertisement. For tough commissions such as this, Ten Tenth scored its computer register of 3,000

classic vehicles and searched villages and towns for suitable cars. Staff toured London sticking notes on the windshields of immaculate 1974 Volvo estates to plead for their owners' help.

The Volvo is unlikely to join Mason's collection, but what does he drive? A supercar, of course. Mason has just bought an Aston Martin Zagato from Rowan Atkinson, the comedian.

Some modern, unostentatious cars, however, have caught Mason's eye. He has bought one of the £6,500 versions of the Mini Cooper just relaunched by Rover, to go with an original Sixties Cooper, which has been three years in restoration.



Party piece: the Lotus Elise Celebration Excel marks 25 years and a boom

Lotus lights up the gloom

LUXURY car manufacturers have been hit particularly hard by the collapse in confidence among businessmen, but even this cloud has a silver lining. Lotus had a record 1990, increasing UK sales by 84 per cent to 1,017 cars. European sales have doubled, thanks mainly to the new Elan two-seater.

The business that nearly went bankrupt is now celebrating 25 years at its headquarters in Hethel, Norfolk. Cars from the factory founded by Colin Chapman in 1966 won Formula One championships. Lotus two-seaters became cars for the ultra-trendy. However, the Eighties became a battle for survival. Then General Motors acquired the business in 1986, giving protective financial strength to allow Lotus to develop its quality

and reliability and produce new models, including the Elan. Production in 1986 was 700 cars. It should top 4,000 this year, and the 1990 workforce of 600 now exceeds 1,000. In addition, Lotus's design and engineering consultancy has recently developed the world's fastest saloon, the Lotus Carlton, for Vauxhall.

Lotus is now producing a car to fit the occasion. The Lotus Hethel Celebration Excel will be a limited edition of the sports car. At £28,995, it has air-conditioning, a remote control compact disc player, all-leather interior and Wilton carpets. The 2.2-litre engine offers 180 brake horsepower, which takes the car from 0 to 60mph in 6.8 seconds and on to a top speed of 135mph.

Fuel fines warning

EVIDENCE that some companies and individuals are stockpiling petrol is reaching trading standards officers, even though petrol prices appear to have stalled since the Gulf war began. Anyone hoarding petrol is warned of fines of up to £2,000. No more than two two-gallon containers or two five-litre containers can be stored in the car or garage, and should be metal or red plastic with a hazard warning sign attached.

Good saving guide

VAUXHALL is issuing a guide to saving fuel. It says instant economies can be made by checking for correct tyre pressures, ensuring good engine tuning, using the highest possible gear without straining the engine, driving smoothly and not using unnecessary drags such as roof racks.

Round-Euro run

GETTING around the European Community will be easier after the single market is introduced in 1992. The Euro Auto Challenge will do it the hard way by travelling through all 12 community nations in the shortest time. All cars, with up to three drivers or navigators, must use a tachograph to prove that speed limits are observed. Further details: Euro Auto Challenge, 11 Grenville Gardens, Frimley Green, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6NH.

In the fast lane

IF YOU can afford a classy BMW, you can travel in comfort. If you can afford a BMW motor cycle, you may arrive sooner. BMW says motor cycle sales were up 16 per cent to 2,239 last year.

Peugeot perk

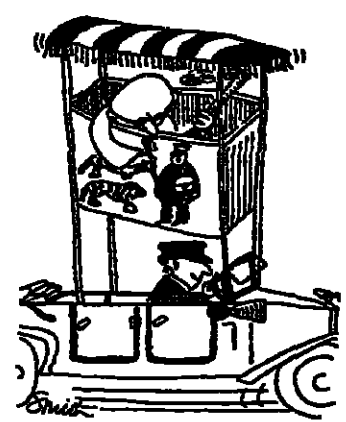
BUSINESSMEN may believe there is no such thing as the 50mpg executive car. Peugeot begs to differ with the launch of its 605 SRd, which keeps luxurious trim levels but puts a four-cylinder, 12-valve, 2-litre turbo-diesel under the bonnet. The maximum speed is 119mph, but cost-conscious drivers will want to know that fuel economy is 57.6mpg at a steady 56mph and 33.2mpg in town driving.

Skodas up - just

SKODA is increasing prices by an average 2 per cent, well below the inflation rate. That means just

£90.94 on the 136LS Favorit model. Meanwhile, Hyundai is increasing the prices of its new X2.5 coupe and Sonata models by between 1.8 and 3.6 per cent. Stellar and X1 Pony cars remain unchanged. A base Pony X2.1.3SD is now £5,698 and a 2.4i GLS Sonata automatic is £14,948. The S coupe 1.5 LSI is £8,799.

The Tigermobile



SHOOTING tigers may as well be done in comfort. At its sale on March 11, Christie's is selling a Rolls-Royce, built in 1926 for the Maharaja of Bharatpur. The car has the essential "fly-up" seat, so that the maharajah could pop from the top at any passing tigers, and a Bosch horn, as well as the usual klixon, to frighten away sacred cows. The expected price is up to £60,000.

Wider warranties

TOYOTA is extending three-year warranties on new cars to cover used cars fewer than three years old or with up to 60,000 miles on the clock. The warranty covers all components of the vehicle and there is no limit to claims.

Audi's extras

AUDI is launching special equipment versions of its 80 range with packages worth up to £800. The extras include spoked alloy wheels with low-profile 195/60 tyres, front fog lamps, rear electric windows, tilt-and-slide sunroof and dashboard computer. Prices start at £13,497. The top price is £17,967 for the 80 quattro SE.

Speed treat

SPEED fanatics restricted to pootling in their clapped-out bangers can indulge a few of their fantasies next week at the Motor Racing Show, at Donington, in the east Midlands. The show, from February 8 to 10, features circuit rides and static exhibits. For those with higher ambitions, helicopter rides are available.

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2017 (5) DELTA INTEGRALE 16V (Ex Demo) Winner Red A.S.D. list price £22,000, now £17,995
2018 (5) DELTA INTEGRALE 16V (Ex Demo) Winner Red A.S.D. list price £22,000, now £17,995
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Snowfire Chap can atone for rare lapse

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

MARY Reveley and Peter Niven, who are both already enjoying their best seasons, look poised to build on that success by landing a double with Snowfire Chap (2.45) and Cowgate Fountain (3.45).

The same horses formed two-thirds of a treble for the trainer and jockey at the last meeting on the course in December.

Snowfire Chap, who has already made three notable contributions to Mrs Reveley's record-breaking total of 45, was arguably unlucky not to have made it four at Nottingham early in the new year.

After being hampered at a crucial stage of the race, Snowfire Chap had to be completely misjudged the second last fence. That mistake probably made the difference between victory and defeat.

In the end he was beaten 2½ lengths by Green Tops, who can have little chance of confirming the place in 10th worst terms. A greater threat may be Radical Lady, who stayed on strongly to be second to Golden Minstrel at Nottingham ten days ago.

Although the distance of the

Bookmakers agree to provide MPs with profit details

By RICHARD EVANS

BRITAIN'S "Big Three" bookmakers have agreed to provide MPs with a detailed breakdown of their profits - including how much they make from racing in this country.

The decision to hand over such closely-guarded information, some of it commercially sensitive, follows a formal request from the Commons home affairs select committee which began an enquiry this week into the horse betting levy system.

Let broke, William Hill and Coral have always jealously protected the size of their bookmaking profits and fiercely resisted efforts to make them divulge the figures.

However, they had little choice when faced by the MPs' request, as select committees have sweeping powers to demand "persons, papers and records". If they refuse, the makers had refused to hand over the profit figures, the offending company chairman could be sent to prison for contempt of parliament.

The MPs on the select committee need a breakdown of bookmaker profits so they have a clear picture of the betting industry.

The "Big Three" claim their profits from racing in Britain amount to about three per cent of the £2.5 billion betting turnover on the sport - £150 million - but refuse to provide details.

Sir John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North and the select committee chairman, said: "Bookmakers

BANGOR

Selections
By Mandarin
1.30 TROY POPPY (nap), 2.0 Grey Merlin, 2.30 Mirage Day, 3.0 Oh Why, 3.30 Leading Role, 4.0 Abbot of Furness, 4.30 Irish Orchid.

By Thunderer
1.30 Silian, 2.0 Grey Merlin, 2.30 Razzal, 3.0 Night Star, 3.30 Leading Role, 4.0 Abbot of Furness, 4.30 Irish Orchid.

Going: soft
1.30 TRIAL RUN NOVICES CHASE (22,953: 2m 4f) (18 runners)
1-4-3 DORIS GEN 25 (J.P.) P. Niven 5-11-10... T. Wall
2-1-2 DORIS GEN 25 (J.P.) P. Niven 5-11-10... T. Wall
3-4-0 DORIS GEN 25 (J.P.) P. Niven 5-11-10... T. Wall

2.0 DEAD COT NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (21,910: 2m) (10)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

2.30 GREEDINGTON LONG DISTANCE HURDLE CHASE (22,590: 3m 4f) (10)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

3.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

3.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

4.15 MAREKSTOWN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE (21,718: 2m 6f) (6 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

4.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

5.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

5.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

3.30 WHIP HAND CLAIMING HURDLE (22,355: 2m 4f) (17)

1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

4.00 REFLEX NOVICES HURDLE (21,998: 2m) (18)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

4.30 FILLES SLIDE RIDE STAKES (National Hunt Flat race: £1,483: 1m 4f) (16)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

5.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

5.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

6.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

6.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

7.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

7.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

8.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

8.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

9.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

9.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

10.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

10.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

11.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

11.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

12.15 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICES CHASE (22,695: 3m) (11 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

12.45 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22,008: 2m 2f) (13 runners)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

1.00 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

1.30 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

1.60 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

1.90 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

2.20 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

2.50 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

2.80 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

3.10 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

3.40 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

3.70 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

4.00 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

4.30 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

4.60 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

4.90 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

5.20 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

5.50 ANNESLEY HANDICAP (22,412: 6f) (6)
1-4-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
2-1-2 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray
3-4-0 TAP DANCING 25 (J.P.) M. O'Neill 5-11-11... L. Wray

Decision to race upsets trainers

EDINBURGH'S decision to go ahead with yesterday's frost-thrashed meeting brought mixed reactions from jockeys and trainers.

The stewards finally passed the course fit after a second inspection at 1pm. A punt bet for the first race by an hour to 2pm.

However, a number of trainers had already decided not to risk their horses on ground they considered too firm.

Of the seven runners in the second race were withdrawn and there were a total of 13 non-runners.

Tommy Craig, from nearby Dunbar, was adamant that the track was unraceable. "The course has had patches and is as solid as a rock," Craig said.

However, another local trainer, Peter Monteith, said: "It is raceable and I will be running my horses." Monteith's decision proved justified when Al Frolic landed the odds by three lengths in the opening Logiciana Claiming Hurdle.

● Jamie Osborne landed a 6-1 double on Dusty Miller and Spraggle in the Towcester brothers, Simon and Oliver, the two divisions of the Drayton House Novices' Hurdle at Towcester yesterday.

● Pictolus, well backed ante-post for tomorrow's Tote Jackpot Hurdle at Sandown, will miss the race.

BETTER CALL WILLIAM HILL
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Read's fears for future as Austrians take charge

FROM BRIAN JAMES IN SAALBACH

AUSTRIA hugs itself with loudly paraded delight over the success of its skiers. But every time they take a world championship medal, eight or so far and rising, men like Ken Read, of Canada, grow more glum. "Their skiers are brilliant, but overwhelming Austrian success could set world skiing back for years."

Read, five times a World Cup downhill winner in his heyday in the late 1970s, who is now on skiing's Alpine executive board, where he is seen as the voice of the racers, takes an insider's view of a sport he described as "life-threatening, about to reach its high noon."

That has been a hard concept to grasp these past dozen days in Saalbach: vivid with the colours of speed and of danger, teams caparisoned like knights, the livery of the equipment companies vying with the balloons and tents of the hucksters. No circus was ever more brilliant. But this is the clown in his motley, a garb to hide a fearful heart.

"The sport has its back to the wall," Read said. "Not just because of the terrible damage done to resorts and equipment firms by the snow famine: more because of the factional fighting over what is left — everybody trying to put in their own two cents' worth, and take out every dollar."

That is why he sees Austrian triumph as a skiing tragedy. "When Switzerland was winning everything, it had the muscle and used it to stay unmovable on anything. Austria will be worse. What is best for the wider world of the sport won't matter. Just what suits the tribal warfare of a few Alpine nations."

The structure is this. Skiing is controlled by the FIS, the national federation, FIS, which is responsible to its 63 member countries for everything from ski-jumping to grass-skiing, from schoolsport to masters cross-country racing.

Responsibility for Alpine racing is devolved to Read's committee. And the running of skiing's frankly professional super-league, is devolved — or usurped by — to a World Cup sub-group, bendable to the whim of television and the will of sponsors.

It is here, among the money-makers, that the bitterest battles rage. So far this winter, two disputes have broken the surface: first, when the United States threatened to walk out and organise its own programme of events; and then when racers revolted on the eve of an experimental race (later cancelled) in which they were told to qualify in a trial event the preceding day.

"They got over the first one shrewdly, by bringing the Americans in to design the schedule," Read explained.

So what, then is the answer? Read said: "Instead of sliding backwards in a moving world, skiing has to become as professional as tennis or golf. That means not a committee, but a commissioner, one man, a pro, to run the thing and be fired if he's wrong."

There is support from Serge Lang, the journalist who investigated the World Cup in 1967, and finally lost control to the coaches and the committees in 1986. "Yes, one ruler. Even if he is no good, is better than this madhouse."

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Practice is a penance for Test cricketers in Perth as the temperatures soar to record levels

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
PERTH

THE hottest day in the history of this city was a trial to everyone, not least the England cricketers, who spent much of their time sheltering in their air-conditioned hotel, anxiously tuned in to weather forecasts for today's start of the Fifth and final Ashes Test.

The temperature here did not fall below 26°C on Wednesday night and, shortly after two o'clock yesterday afternoon, the new record was set at 45.8°C, almost 115°F. One can hardly expect sympathy reporting such facts to a Britain suffering frost and snow but it is a fact that to be in Perth yesterday was to be unpleasantly incarcerated in an oven.

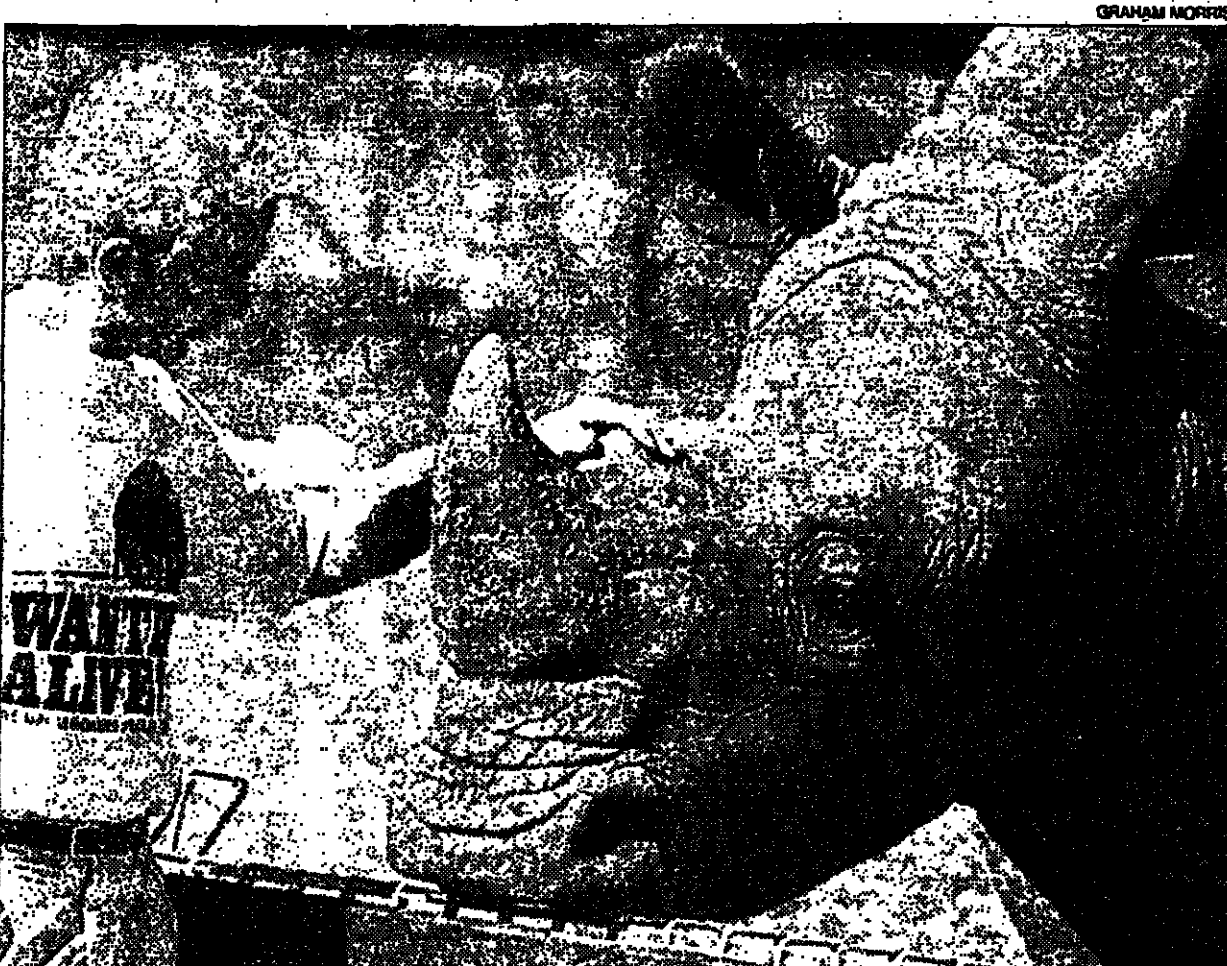
Bush fires raged all around the area, destroying homes and animals; almost 2,000 cars broke down through overheating in the city; and the water board, not to be outdone by the statistics of the day, reported a new record consumption. Stocks of fans, hats and sunscreen dwindled rapidly in the shops and, at the WACA, cricketers practising in the shade of the pavilion conditions few of them can have experienced before.

Australian players wore sunglasses, not simply against the glare but to protect their eyes from burning. England players adopted a version of legionnaire's hats, tucking handkerchiefs in their caps to keep the sun off their necks. Dehydration was a serious factor, even at practice, and one England player, drenched with perspiration and parched in his throat after a fielding session, was properly piqued to find that his team's drinking supply had been raided by spectating tourists.

Had the Test match started yesterday, there would have been a genuine health risk involved and while I doubt if any Test has ever been halted by heat, I similarly doubt if one has been played in such searing heat as this. Thankfully, a change is evidently on the way; the weathermen say it might struggle to reach 100°F today.

Most attention at the England test session centred on Angus Fraser, who was having his first bowl since being given a cortisone injection for his chronic hip condition.

Fraser operated at what his manager, Micky Stewart, as-



Gently does it: David Gower's love of wildlife's endangered species takes him to Perth Zoo and a visit to Memphis, the three-year old rhinoceros. Such beasts may benefit from Gower's planned sponsored run-make in the fifth Test

essed as 70 per cent. Stewart also said that his No. 1 bowler was fitter than he had been before the Adelaide Test, which only adds to the sense of wonderment that he could be included there. Accordingly, however, Fraser was last night included in a 12-man squad and was expected to play if free of overnight reaction.

Standing by, only three days after arriving in Australia, was the Worcestershire swing bowler, Phil Newport, whose style might very well be suited to conditions here. His inclusion might also have been a sensibly humane measure for Fraser. Endlessly willing though he is, Fraser can surely be doing himself and his future no favours by playing through physical distress as often as he does.

The selection meant that there was again no place for Jack Russell, an unfortunate waste of a world-class cricketer, and that David Gower would equal Colin Cowdrey's record of 114 England caps.

Sri Lanka hold the advantage

WELLINGTON (Reuters) — Impressive fast bowling by Graeme Labrooy and Ramesh Ranawake gave Sri Lanka the advantage on the first day of a windswept first Test with New Zealand yesterday.

Labrooy and Ranawake each took four wickets, as New Zealand were dismissed for 174 runs. At the close of play, Sri Lanka were in a reasonably comfortable position at 41 for two.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, won the toss and did not hesitate in sending New Zealand in to bat on a moist, grassy wicket in fine, but windy, conditions. The wind reached gale force in the afternoon for 15 minutes or so, blowing the balls were blown from the stumps several times, forcing the umpires to remove them in the hour before tea.

Sri Lanka bowlers have a quick turn of advantage of the conditions, getting the new ball to move both ways off the slow pitch, which provided little bounce.

New Zealand were soon in trouble, with Franklyn, the opener, failing to a close-in catch off Labrooy for three and Jones being caught behind off Ranawake for five, leaving Sri Lanka with 18 for two, a position from which they never recovered.

Wright looked to be settling in well, but fell to a good catch at second slip by Gurushina off Labrooy for 15. Martin Crowe, the captain, also made a sound start, but was caught behind for 30 off Ranawake.

Sri Lanka began their innings without Mahanama, the opener, who injured his right hand while fielding at slip. He is expected to bat today.

A pitch made for batsmen

By SIMON WILDE

ENGLAND'S chances of beating Australia in the Perth Test, which started today, must be as remote as they were at Adelaide. Once a batsman gets set there, there is often no removing him. Last season, several batsmen played innings at Perth lasting longer than eight hours, including Mark Greatbatch, who in the most recent Test on the ground, occupied the crease for a total of more than 14-and-a-half hours. This season, the Waugh twins batted together for almost seven hours in a stand of 464.

Four years ago, England completed a series of eight declared Test matches on the ground, their highest total in Australia since the Second World War, with Broad, Gower and Jack

Richards hitting centuries. The pitch then developed a large crack in line with the stumps at both ends but it created few difficulties and Australia comfortably played out for a draw.

The four Ashes Tests played at Perth in the 1970s gave the faster bowlers more help and produced two wins for Australia and one for England. Against Lille and Thompson in 1974-5, England's fastest bowler gave 14 catches to the wicketkeeper, slips and gully ring.

Brian Beel sets the scene for the point-to-point season which gets under way tomorrow

Sandstone Arch heads names to watch

STARTING at Eyrton-on-Severn tomorrow week, 25 races are to be held across the length and breadth of England, Scotland and Wales to qualify for the final of *The Times* Restricted Championship at Towcester on May 24.

Such is the popularity of the races — for horses that have not won an open race — that the safety factor is often exceeded when the entries are declared and the race has to be run in two divisions. In consequence, with the first three eligible to enter for the final, around 100 horses could be concerned.

To be concerned, a racing system should assist in alleviating the rock-hard going often prevalent in late season. This has sometimes caused a disappointing turnout for the final.

Last season produced a good crop of maiden winners so there is no shortage of contenders for this year's title.

Another with good prospects is Bob Grider, from James Delahouke's successful stable. He has only run twice in his life

but his Little Horwood maiden win augurs well.

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On course for year of growth and records

CONFIDENCE of the organisers in the continued growth of the popularity of point-to-point racing is evidenced both by the increase in the number of meetings scheduled and by the new courses being constructed for the 1991 season.

While the infrastructure of grandstands and other permanent buildings is unnecessary for this sport, one should not belittle the amount of work that goes into constructing a course to meet Jockey Club standards.

The tendency and easy option, therefore, is for more and more hunters to move out of their own country and hire the facilities of a neighbour.

The move of the South Dorset from Badbury Rings to Milborne St Andrew is, therefore, particularly welcome but will be equally so with the horses remaining to be seen.

Llanwrith Major has played host to the Ystrad for the last two seasons but the hunt will be racing this year on their own course, over undulating ground, on the side of a mountain at Llanwrith.

The new course for the East Devon could not be more different. This hunt has had a turbulent time of late but has now moved to Clyst St Mary, where natural country is in fact the car park of the Devon county showground.

It is to be hoped that lessons have been learned from similar flat ovals and that marquee and bouncing castles inside the course are kept to a minimum.

Three new hunts will be holding meetings this year, increasing the total to 202. One of these, the United Pack, breaks its partnership with the Teale Valley to go it alone and create a second fixture at Brampton Bryan.

I remember about 40 years ago, in the days of petrol shortage, hitching a lift in the bookmakers' bus from Newcastle to the Cumberland point-to-point. Not many years after, the fixture disappeared.

But it has now returned to a new course at Aspatria.

While the Brocksley, Burton and South Wold will all have their individual meetings, they have also amalgamated for an early event on February 16 in the guise of the combined United Hunts Club and will be racing on the inside of the Market Rasen NH course.

Hunter certificates for over 2,000 horses have so far been lodged at Wetherby, well on the way to topping the 4,000 mark reached in the last two years.

Notwithstanding the near record last year — only two off the 1989 total — the number of runners was at a 15-year low, due solely to the lack of rain from March turning the ground gradually to concrete.

Given favourable conditions this season, there is every prospect of overtaking the record of 12,562 runners achieved in 1988.

Colour adds to appeal of trusty annual

WITH the new season under starter's orders, point-to-point enthusiasts cannot afford to be without that excellent annual, *MacKenzie and Selby's Hunter, Chase and Point-to-Pointers 1991* (Chase Publications, £12.95) (Chase Publications, £12.95).

In hardback, over 900 pages cover every aspect of the sport, ranging from historical data to last-year results and the act of the horse.

The pictorial content has been improved this year by the introduction of a section of colour photographs. The black and white ones which they replace are now centred as the appropriate place in the narrative.

This monumental work deserves to be on the bookshelves of everyone connected with the sport.

SNOW REPORTS

Depth	Weather	Runs to top	Conditions	Runners	Temp	Last
cm	to	to	to	to	to	to
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
AUSTRIA	50	50	good	crust	icy	fine -10 14/1
Good uncrowded skiing						
Mayrhofer	50	75	fair	heavy	worn	fine 3 13/1
Good skiing throughout resort						
St Anton	35	140	fair	varied	art	fine -4 13/1
Most pistes still in good condition						
FRANCE	45	245	good	moguls	icy	fine -2 19/1
Chamonix	45	245	good	moguls	icy	fine -2 19/1
Northern runs still very good						
Flaine	34	175	fair	varied	fair	fine 1 19/1
Good piste skiing						
La Plagne	90	180	good	varied	good	fine -4 19/1
Strong remaining good						
Megève	115	60	good	varied	poor	fine 1 19/1
Slight warming has led to deterioration of runs						
Val d'Isère	89	120	fair	varied	fair	fine -11 14/1
Good skiing continuing						

In the above report, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

THE TIMES Point-to-point Championship



Prominent among them could be Barrage. After creditably and being placed in two ladies' open races, behind Roscoe Boy, he won a good maiden, under Judith Davey at Stratford.

Another with good prospects is Bob Grider, from James Delahouke's successful stable. He has only run twice in his life

but his Little Horwood maiden win augurs well.

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Coppell says signings give Liverpool edge

entry counterpart, John
ston, over the reasons behind
's failed attempt to sign the

ington yesterday laid the blame on Villa's door, and said: "Specdie asked Villa for the same salary he was earning at Coventry but a penny more and not a penny less. But they were trying to kick him down and I do not want him for sticking up for what he wanted."

However, according to Ellis, the

At the end of the day nine out of 10 players would go to Liverpool if he had the chance," Ellis said. "It's a big opportunity for Speedie and understandably he took it."

...alternative", having
...ngthened their spending power
...day by selling Paul Birch, the
...field player, to Wolves for
...0,000.

...ian Little, the Darlington man-
...yesterday ruled himself out of
...reckoning for the manager's job
...irmingham City. Terry Cooper,
...ever, has been given per-
...mission by Exeter to discuss the
...necy with the Birmingham
...man, Samesh Kumar.

Good management aids Faulkner and Williams

"I thought I'd hung up my boots but I couldn't resist the challenge of captaining England for the first time," Bailey said. "This competition asks a totally different question to the Curtis Cup, which is played over two days. The European team championship, with qualifying rounds and match-play stages,

Bailey will study candidates for the team at the English women's championship at Sheringham from May 21 to 25 after which the selections will be finalised. She added: "The rapid turnover to the professional ranks does make it more difficult for amateur international

A practice session has been arranged at Wentworth on March 21 and 22 when John Garner, the former Ryder Cup golfer, will offer instruction. Vivien Saunders, a former British open champion, will also spend four weekends during the Spring working with the players at Abbotsey.

ENGLAND SQUAD: R Boles (Bournemouth).

Alnmouth), G Hall (Filton), J Hall (Folkestone Ferry), J Hookley (Folkestone Ferry), A MacDonald (Andergarth), E Mason

Favourites toppled by masterful performance

allowed to leave RAF

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Edwards, Britain's No. 1

hot putter, is to be allowed to leave the Royal Air Force in time of war to concentrate on athletics. Though not due for release until 1995, Edwards was having difficulty in reconciling the considerable demands of his athletic career with the demands of the RAF*, according to Air Commodore Smart, chairman of the RAF Athletic

The RAF had wanted to post Edwards, a senior aircraftman, to the Gulf and, when he objected because he feared he would lose weight essential to

After much "toing and froing", as Air Commodore Smart said, mutual agreement

"He had a choice between fulfilling his service commitments and leaving and, regretably, it has come to him leaving. In certain circumstances, people who cannot meet their commitments can

ave." With rich irony, Edwards, aged 31, returns to competition after injury in the AAA indoor championships this weekend . . . at RAF Cosford.

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Taylor pleads for football clubs to ground-share

By JOHN GOODBODY

LORD Justice Taylor, whose report on the Hillsborough disaster set the agenda for the future of British football stadiums, yesterday said he was "most disappointed" that more clubs were not prepared to share grounds.

With the Government insisting that all first and second division stadiums become all-seater by 1994-5, in line with Lord Taylor's recommendations, many clubs, already hard-pressed financially, will have to find extra money for the new facilities.

In an interview with *The Times*, Lord Taylor said: "There is a lot of bleating about ground-sharing. Clubs would reduce by 50 per cent their costs through this method. People say there is a long tradition against this, but this is rubbish. Where supporters are no less partisan than in England."

Among Football League clubs, only Charlton Athletic and Crystal Palace play at the same stadium, but Charlton still hope to leave Selhurst Park and return to their previous home at The Valley.

Speaking a year after his final report into the Hillsborough disaster, Lord Taylor said he was "surprised" that the Government had cut, by two-and-a-half per cent to 40 per cent the tax on football pools, so returning £100 million to the game for ground

improvements. The League has estimated that it will cost more than £600 million to convert grounds to all-seater stadiums.

Lord Taylor said he would also like to see stadiums have other sports and community facilities, but these projects are limited "because many clubs are playing on cramped, 80-year-old sites". "This is how the disaster occurred at Hillsborough, when people were coming late to the cramped Leppings Lane end of the ground," he said.

He said that one positive result from the report had been the attention local authorities were spending on safety: "In some cases, they have been tediously and pedantically alive to inspections. There has also been a great improvement on medical provision."

Lord Taylor felt that generally the standard of behaviour of the supporters has got much better, although the incidents in Bournemouth last season when Leeds United supporters became involved in running fights, were "terrible".

Sheffield Wednesday yesterday announced that next season they would reopen the Leppings Lane terrace where 94 Liverpool supporters died in April 1989. The terrace is being converted into an area for 2,200 seats.

as a "park-and-ride" facility for people going into the centre.

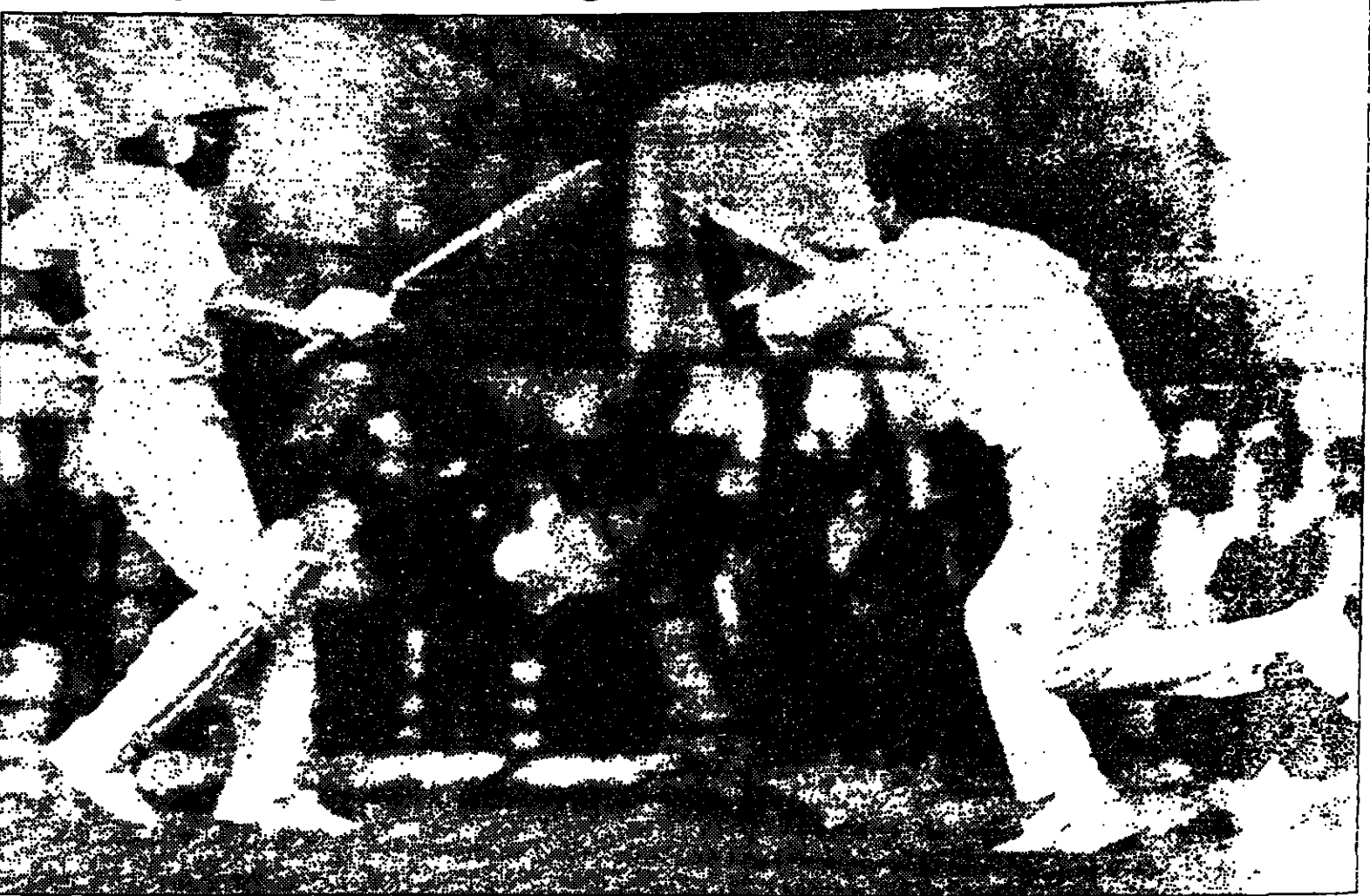
Although he is well aware of the opposition of many supporters in making stadiums all-seater, Lord Taylor pointed out that seats need not necessarily be expensive. "I was immensely impressed with Ibrox stadium, where the cheapest seats are £6.50. That is only the cost of what supporters might spend on travelling to the ground or for a few drinks."

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Enquiry set up to investigate Indian cricket confrontation



Armed and dangerous: Patel, stump in hand, charges at Lamba, the North Zone opening batsman, in the Duleep Trophy final in Jamshedpur

A sport smeared by shock and shame

By MARCUS WILLIAMS

THE Indian cricket hierarchy yesterday spoke out angrily over the disgraceful scenes during the Duleep Trophy final, in which Rashid Patel attacked Raman Lamba with a stump and the match had to be abandoned after a crowd riot.

A committee of enquiry is due to meet next Monday to investigate the confrontation, which arose after Patel, of West Zone, delivered the last of many bouncers at Lamba, the North

Zone opening batsman. An argument followed, culminating in Patel attacking Lamba with a stump as the batsman used his bat to ward off the blows.

Madhav Rao Scindia, the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, described the incident at Jamshedpur — a neutral venue in the East Zone — on Tuesday as "outrageous, shameful and shocking". He added: "Such reprehensible actions... smear the fair name of the game. Nobody is above the game and those who violate

cricket's spirit have no right to be part of this sport."

Two former Indian Test captains were moved to demand heavy punishments. Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi called for a ban on the players and fines for their state associations. More outspoken was Bishen Bedi, India's tour manager in England last summer. Blaming the incident on indiscipline among senior players, and accusing the umpires of lacking the courage to use the powers given to them by the laws of the game, he said:

"No punishment is big enough for such a dastardly act."

Patel, a left-arm quick bowler who won a single Test cap against New Zealand in 1988, will face some searching questions at the enquiry. So, too, will the captains, Kapil Dev and Ravi Shastri, for the match had been full of acrimony and bouncers had been plentiful from both sides well before the incident.

Test preview, page 30

The long arms of goalkeeping law

By PETER BALL

BRUCE Grobbelaar and FA councillors with weak hearts are probably advised to stay away from their television sets this afternoon. *Sport on Friday* (BBC2, 2.20pm) will show Graham Taylor proposing changes in the game that make FIFA's suggestions for a larger goal look the merest tinkering.

The England manager, at least, leaves the goal the same size, but Grobbelaar, for one, would find the proposed restrictions an even greater burden. The England manager picks up Lord Chief Justice Taylor's suggestion that passing back to the goalkeeper should be banned, but goes further.

Calling the goalkeeper "a bit of a nuisance in terms of spoiling the game", Graham Taylor suggests that he should

be restricted to "what he is, a handball player".

To this end, Taylor would prevent Grobbelaar and his colleagues from playing as sweepers behind a flat back four as they do now. He advocates replacing the six-yard box with a new, larger goal area, extending to the penalty spot. "You say to the goalkeeper, 'You stay there! If you come out of that area and touch the ball, we will give a penalty or a direct kick'."

"What you will do is keep the goalkeeper back in the area where it is best to keep him. The goalkeeper is one of the biggest problems for spoiling the game and slowing the game down because we can pass it back all the time. We can take steps to stop him marauding all over the pitch."

Ferguson's ticket protest

By CLIVE WHITE

ALEX Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, yesterday accused the Football League of being afraid of Leeds United and its supporters and the Yorkshire club, whom they meet in the semi-finals of Rumbelow Cup, of "hiding behind police reports" in order to keep more tickets for their own supporters in the second leg at Elland Road.

On the advice of the police authorities, Leeds originally offered Manchester United 1,300 tickets out of an expected capacity crowd of 31,500, but increased that to 2,500 after protests from United to the League management committee.

However, the Manchester club is still not happy with its allocation, particularly since it was preparing to give Leeds 8,000 tickets for the first leg at Old Trafford. Ferguson is insisting on an allocation of at least 6,000.

"It's a semi-final," Ferguson said. "There should be equal opportunity. The rules are quite clear, we're entitled to 25 per cent of the capacity. Leeds, the team, are doing great. They don't need to have any more advantages. I am just wondering whether the authorities are afraid of them."

Ferguson's suggestion that the semi-final should be switched to a one-off match to be played, perhaps, at Maine Road, was not to be taken too seriously, at this late stage.

The Manchester United manager stopped short of a more damning attack upon the Leeds supporters.

To minimise the risk of fighting between rival supporters, visiting clubs have had their ticket allocations drastically reduced this season on police advice and with the consent of the League.

England players take chance to set out case for change

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH the focus of attention, in a playing sense, is upon Edinburgh and Dublin this international weekend, England are active in the committee sense — which, some might argue, is what they do best. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) executive committee meets today and the players assemble tomorrow to begin preparations for their next match, against Scotland at Twickenham on February 16.

Both sides of the game will view with interest the *Public Eye* programme on BBC2 this evening, in which the England players reiterate their growing frustration that the rest of the rugby world may be passing them by, in respect of the amateur regulations. "There's a supposed amateur ethos

which I don't think really exists anyway," Brian Moore, the Harlequins hooker, says during the programme, which was filmed during squad training in Lanzarote last month.

"It's seen as sacrosanct. Now that won't last for long. Come the next World Cup, the game will be semi-professional. A lot of people won't like that, a lot of people will."

The view of those who will not be expressed by Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary: "If they wish to go and play another sport and play for financial reward... we have a whole mass of people queuing to take their place. The will of the rugby-following people in this country is that the game should remain amateur. They believe that it has so much going for it as an amateur

game... that it is special, that it should not follow the course adopted by other, professional sports."

An additional fear is expressed by John Perkins, the former Wales lock who now coaches Pontypool. "If the game goes truly professional then I think our days would be numbered. Because, to be honest, if our success or the success of this club depends upon the generation of wealth, then we just can't have a future on a municipal pitch."

Even the RFU committee has been divided about the way forward for the leading players, notably since the adverse publicity attached to the company favoured to act as agents for the players, caused by an assumed connection with black-market tickets.

Irish send for Rigney as forward drops out

BRIAN Rigney was yesterday called into the Ireland rugby union team for the match against France tomorrow — less than two months after being sent off in Ireland B's game against Scotland (George Ace writes).

Rigney, the Greystones lock, becomes the sixth new cap in the side. He was called in after Neil Francis had been ruled out after a medical examination before the Irish training session.

Ken Reid, the team manager and chairman of selectors, said: "Francis has contracted a virus and has a heavy cold with a slight touch of tonsillitis. He would not

have been able to train today or tomorrow, and we had no option but to replace him."

Rigney, aged 27, was sent off for retaliation after only 15 minutes of the B international against Scotland in Belfast last month. He was in the Irish squad that trained in Portugal at the end of last year, although he was under a three-week suspension. He has been a regular member of the Irish squad for two seasons.

Reid said: "He was with us on the North American tour in 1989. We will miss Francis's height but Rigney is an aggressive forward who knows the drill."

False identity leads to ban for Higgins

DAVID Higgins, the Cardiff-registered former Welsh youth international player, has been banned for 18 weeks by the Welsh Rugby Union for his role in a controversial match between Tredregh and Birmingham and Solihull on January 5 (a Special Correspondent writes).

Higgins, who was playing for Tredregh without a permit, was sent off during the match for his part in a brawl between the teams, and as he did so, he gave his name as John Hodges, the team's bus-driver, to the referee. The WRU discovered the truth after being given a report from the referee.

New deadline for Olympics groups

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE British Olympic Association (BOA) yesterday gave the two rival groups seeking to bring the 2000 Olympic Games to London a further eight days to combine forces or be disqualified from bidding.

London had another blow yesterday when Tarmac, the construction company, said it would be pulling out of involvement with the enterprise because of the adverse publicity over the failure to achieve a single voice. However, the two groups still hope that if they can unify, then Tarmac will change its mind.

Yesterday, on the closing day for bids, Dick Palmer, the BOA secretary, opened three letters from groups stating they wished to stage the 2000 Olympics — one from Manchester, which failed to get the 1996 Games, and two from London. The two from the capital were from London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, and one from the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCSR), on which there are representatives from the 33 boroughs and also sports bodies in the city.

Palmer said: "There seems to have been a surfeit of bids from London. It poses us with a dilemma. Our intention is to call in the two London groups as soon as possible to tell them that in no circumstances will we evaluate more than one bid from one city. We will allow them until February 8 to combine."

"One criterion for a bid is that there is a general consensus in the city, with no objecting groups."

Asked if he thought that the dispute was an unfortunate start to London's attempt to stage the Games for the first time since 1948, he said: "I think it should be construed as over-enthusiasm."

Palmer said he had spoken to Bob Scott, the leader of the Manchester bid. "He has graciously said that he would go along with whatever we decide." Scott was aware that the BOA could have disqualified London from bidding.

On Monday, Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, will meet representatives of both sides in the House of Commons. She said: "I will be acting in a neutral role as a conciliating negotiator. I want to see exactly what is dividing them."

"Frankly, if the efforts at this meeting and the BOA are not successful then London does not deserve to get the Games and many people will have to live with the knowledge that they have missed a great opportunity."

Many of the problems revolve round the management structure of the bidding committee, including the role of Coe, and also the importance of the local authorities.

There is also controversy over the position of Peter Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, which represents the national governing bodies and which has strongly supported London Olympic 2000. However, his approach has antagonised several people, including officials of the BOA.

Letters, page 11

Can you solve this problem faster than Shakespeare?



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LOVE () FORTY
BASE () TOP
CLOUD () GALE
MUG () CUP
HOOF () CLOVEN
ZITHER () HARP

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Commonwealth Games in danger of collapse

From DAVID MILLER
IN MONTE CARLO

THE Commonwealth Games, next to be staged in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1994, are in danger of dying on their feet unless the Canadians are willing to change the dates. The collapse of the Games in Canada could mean the end of the 70-year-old event.

Urgent debate is taking place between the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), the Victoria Organising Committee, the British Amateur Athletic Board and television and sponsor agents. The problem is the proximity of the European athletics championships to the Canadian event — one following the other within ten days in the second half of August.

Because the majority of the prominent grand prix meetings in Europe — in Zurich, Oslo, Brussels

and elsewhere — will immediately follow the European championships in Helsinki, all the leading athletes of Britain and Kenya will choose to remain on the money-earning European circuit rather than seek Commonwealth medals of little commercial value.

The crisis is one of the main talking points out of hours here at the symposium on "sport and law" being held by the International Athletic Foundation. David Dixon, secretary of the CGF, is trying to find a solution before the next executive meeting to be held in London on February 21.

Mike Farrell, the secretary of the British board, said yesterday: "I'm not at all optimistic and I think the situation is extremely serious for the

Commonwealth's main event. Something has to be done in the next few months if the financial situation is to be rescued."

Without British and Kenyan athletes, who inevitably form the centrepiece of any Commonwealth Games, the television channels of Canada, Britain (BBC) and Australia will take a fraction of normal air time, and without television coverage, sponsorship agents such as Alan Pascoe Associates will not be able to attract financial investment. Victoria could be plunged into the same crisis as Sheffield with the World Student Games.

The British board wrote to the organising committee last autumn to say that, without a change of date, they considered there was no chance of Britain sending a full-strength team. The best athletes, such as Linford Christie, if he is still competing, John Regis, Roger

Black, Colin Jackson, Peter Elliott and Steve Backley, are bound to remain in Europe.

The problem for Victoria is that they have planned their organisation around a Games village on the university campus. If the Games start later than the scheduled August 28, the campus will not be available because the university is tied into the North American academic year.

The British board has asked for a minimum four-week interval between the end of the European championships and the start of the Games, preferably a time in the third week of September. The provincial government of British Columbia, not to say the Canadian government, will not wish to host a financial disaster.

BBC executives and Alan Pascoe

have already made it clear to Dixon how seriously they view the situation. A Games without the attraction of confrontation between the athletes of Britain and Kenya has little public impact; and the uncomfortable truth is that Commonwealth medals have little prestige and commercial bargaining power in the market for athletes.

For example, at the European championships — four years before the arrival of trust funds for athletics and the acceptance of professionalism by the International Amateur Athletic Federation — Steve Ovett and Sebastian Coe preferred to concentrate their efforts on Prague rather than Edmonton, Canada, because a European title mattered more. The status of the Commonwealth Games today is, more than ever, social rather than elitist.